PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

Celebrate the season

plants to brighten winter days

Make a wild wreath

PLUS

Win this year's best gardening books

FIND YOUR PERFECT apple tree

IDENTIFYING LICHENS on winter walks

Perfect Christmas presents for gardeners

Garden Masterclass

SUPPORTED BY
ALITEX™
GREENHOUSES AND CONSERVATORIES

Annie Guilfoyle & Noel Kingsbury are GARDEN MASTERCLASS

and this is what we do

⇩

Live workshops for gardeners, designers and landscape professionals

◆

An extensive programme of webinars with recordings available from our online library

◆

A weekly pro bono broadcast with past recordings on our YouTube channel

◆

Workshops and lectures with industry leaders such as Tom Stuart-Smith, Dan Pearson & Piet Oudolf, as well as rising stars from all over the world.

◆

We are global - events in 2020 have 'taken' us to Pennsylvania, Buenos Aires, Jodhpur, Hokkaido, Atlanta, Chicago, Bergamo, Kiev, Vilnius and Christchurch.

We now have a friends' membership scheme offering priority booking, discounts on curated products and online events and invitations to exclusive live events.

Come and join us!

Learn, share and experience knowledge, skills and ideas in gardening and garden design

gardenmasterclass.org
gardenmasterclass@gmail.com

Editor's letter

Jupiter Artland is Scotland's foremost contemporary sculpture park. Nestled within its 22 acres, through a heavy wooden gate, is its most recent installation. A collaboration between the artist Joana Vasconcelos and gardener Thomas Unterdorfer, *Gateway* is a whimsical pool garden created in the shape of a splash where the space is part of the art. Graphic topiary in beech, box, laurel and yew work in contrast to the dynamism of the pool and look mesmerising in winter's frost.

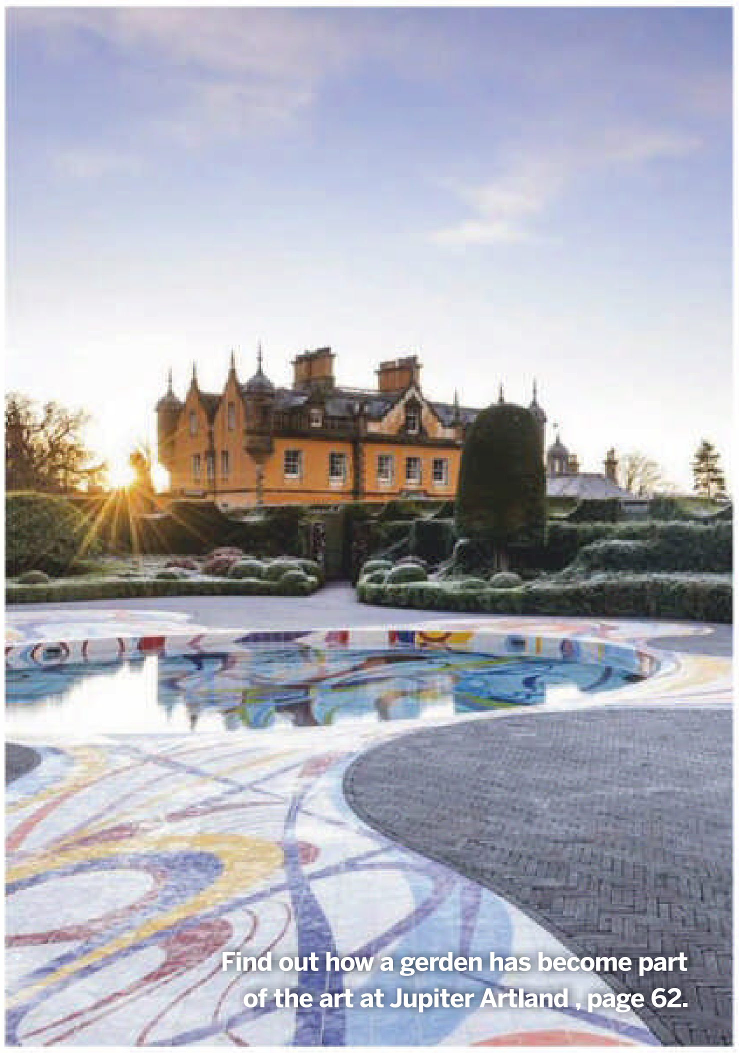
With crisp winter walks in mind, gardener Hannah Gardner considers the subtle beauty of lichens. Lichens thrive on rock, wood and tree bark, and are most visible when trees are not in leaf. In a practical spotters' guide, Hannah identifies those most commonly found.

On page 21 we highlight the best Christmas presents for gardeners, from small wonders to gifts that last a lifetime, including hand-forged Swedish tools and a gardener's leather trug.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas,

Lucy Bellamy

LUCY BELLAMY, EDITOR



Find out how a gerden has become part of the art at Jupiter Artland , page 62.

JASON INGRAM

Contents

DECEMBER 2020

Plants

28 **Plantsman's favourites** Wildside's Keith Wiley chooses his ten favourite plants for December

48 **Christmas at home** Deck the halls in style this Christmas with ideas for natural decorations and present wrapping

54 **Plant profile: *Cotoneaster*** Plantsman Andy McIndoe selects the best of these versatile and low-maintenance shrubs

84 **Heart of the home** Head gardener Matthew Reese shows how best to arrange plants around a fireplace

86 **Know your lichen** Learn how to recognise some of the UK's most common species of lichen

114 ***Begonia*** The houseplant world's great pretender can be a challenge, but persevere and rewards will be yours

Places

38 **Sculpting nature** In her lakeside garden, Monique Gudgeon has used shrubs and grasses to create a strongly structured showcase for her husband Simon's art

62 **A brighter splash** A calm and static green garden provides the perfect setting for a colourful new addition to the permanent artworks at Jupiter Artland in Scotland

70 **Formal thinking** For their Flanders farmhouse, Olivier and Trudy Vico have made a formal garden that also exudes colourful planting

78 **Traditional taste** Among the fields of apple trees at the traditional family run nursery RV Roger you are sure to find an apple tree that is perfect for your garden

People

68 **Who's who** Waterperry Gardens' self-taught head gardener Pat Havers on a lifetime spent loving her place of work and why there was no messing with Miss Havergal

Design

93 **Design update** Including news of plans for a memorial garden in Manchester, wildflowers in the centre of Liverpool and a new phase for The Laskett Gardens

97 **Design sourcebook** Nine of the best terracotta pots

Regulars

3 **Editor's letter**

6 **Contributors**

15 **Dig in** This month: the best of the Christmas season's garden light trails, a new cacti subscription scheme and an orange-scented lemon balm

21 **Gifts for gardeners** Christmas present ideas for gardeners

32 **Subscription offer** Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition of *Gardens Illustrated* this month

34 **Cold comforts** Midwinter is both a time to dig and a time to relax for Great Dixter's gardener cook, as Aaron shares his tips on soil health and how to make best use of your winter crops

36 **Gardening talent** Meet Alexander Summers, the glasshouse supervisor at Cambridge University Botanic Garden

99 **Books** Our pick of the best gardening reads from 2020

104 **Christmas Crossword**

108 **Stockists and back issues**

113 **Next issue** What's coming up in January

ANNAÏCK GUITTENY

Sculptural waves of shrubs and grasses create a bold backdrop to an art collection, page 38.

Subscribe & save

take out a digital subscription to *Gardens Illustrated*

SEE PAGE 32

COVER IMAGE

Cotoneaster lacteus by GAP Photos/Robert Mabic

ON THE COVER

Plants to brighten winter days, pages 28, 54, 70
Perfect Christmas presents for gardeners, page 21
Make a wild wreath, page 48
Find your perfect apple tree, page 78
Identifying lichens on winter walks, page 86
Win this year's best gardening books†, page 99

EVENTS AND OFFERS

- Join us on two garden tours: to Morocco with guest host designer Tom Stuart-Smith, and to France's rose gardens with rosarian Michael Marriott – page 10
- Book now for our tour of the best gardens in Provence, in the company of James and Helen Basson – page 12
- Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition of *Gardens Illustrated* – page 32
- Win all 14 of our gardening books of the year† – page 99
- Receive a free Diakon canvas tote bag when you spend more than £100 at Niwaki – page 106
- Save on a selection of species hellebores from Woottens of Wenhaston†† – page 107

† Books competition open to UK residents only.
†† Hellebore offer available to mainland UK residents only.

Our packaging

Subscriber copies of *Gardens Illustrated* are now delivered in paper wrapping instead of recyclable plastic polywrap. This paper wrap is 100% recyclable and made from sustainably sourced paper. Please recycle in your kerbside recycling bin. We would love to hear your feedback, please contact us at **paperwrap@immediate.co.uk**

We give you the tools, you create the garden.

Brand new online learning with **gardencourses.com** launching on **1st December 2020.**

At **gardencourses.com** we put you in control and help you achieve results that work for you and your garden.

We know that modern gardeners want to be eco-aware and use their garden to relax and be healthy in. Our courses draw on the latest information and techniques from the world of horticulture and have a strong focus on sustainability and eco-friendly gardening.

- Courses designed by expert horticulturists and constantly updated
- Learn online anywhere, at any time
- Fit study around your personal schedule and commitments

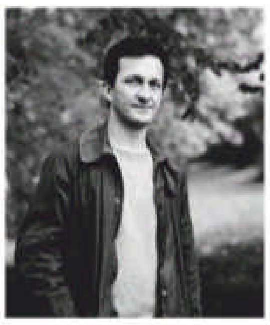
Register for more details at
www.gardencourses.com

instagram@onlinegardencourses
facebook@onlinegardencourses

garden courses.com

Unearth Your Learning Potential

Contributors



Thomas Unterdorfer
Thomas reveals the art of creating a pool garden, page 62. *"The garden became part of Gateway, and the story of a drop of water falling from the heavens."*

Hannah Gardner
Hannah offers a guide to spotting lichens on winter walks, page 86. *"As we enjoy the skeletal beauty of wintery days it's worth tuning in to the miniature wonderland of lichens."*

NICOLA FAVARON

Patrick Morgan
Patrick illustrates our houseplant column, page 114. *"Plants within the environment have always been at the forefront of art, from David Hockney to Ellsworth Kelly."*

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

James Basson
James lives in the South of France where he runs Scape Design with his wife Helen, specialising in low-maintenance and dry gardens. He is a fervent advocate for creating sustainable landscapes. The winner of four Chelsea Gold medals, he was awarded Best in Show in 2017.

Fergus Garrett
Fergus was appointed head gardener at Great Dixter by Christopher Lloyd in 1993. He is passionate about passing on his knowledge through student programmes at Dixter and worldwide lectures. He was awarded an RHS Associate of Honour in 2008 and an RHS Victoria Medal of Honour in 2019.

Anna Pavord
Anna's books include her bestseller *The Tulip* and most recently *Landskipping*. For 30 years she was *The Independent*'s gardening correspondent. In 2000 the RHS awarded her the Veitch Memorial Medal. She lives and gardens in Dorset.

Dan Pearson
Dan is one of the UK's best-known garden designers, familiar to many through his gardening columns in the *Observer* magazine. Eight of his gardens, including the Tokachi Millennium Forest in Japan, have won awards and he was awarded Best in Show for his garden at Chelsea in 2015.

Sarah Price
Sarah is one of the UK's most sought-after garden designers who gained worldwide recognition for her designs for the 2012 London Olympic Park. She won Gold at Chelsea in 2012 and 2018, and was GMG Garden Columnist of the Year in 2016 for her design series in *Gardens Illustrated*.

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Subscription enquiries and back issues

UK 03330 162114
USA/CANADA 1 866 464 8103 (TOLL-FREE)
REST OF THE WORLD +44 1604 973722
UK buysubscriptions.com/contact
buysubscriptions.com/gardensillustrated
USA/CANADA GILcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com, britsubs.com/garden
UK/REST OF THE WORLD *Gardens Illustrated*, PO Box 3320,
3 Queensbridge, Northampton NN4 7BF.
USA/CANADA *Gardens Illustrated*, PO BOX 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495 USA.

Advertising enquiries

+44 (0)117 300 8805 heather.golden@immediate.co.uk

Editorial enquiries

+44 (0)117 300 8622 gardens@gardensillustrated.com
Gardens Illustrated, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited,
Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST.

Syndication & Licensing

Gardens Illustrated is available for licensing and syndication.
+44 (0)117 300 8787 emma.brunt@immediate.co.uk

App support

For App support please visit apps.immediate.co.uk/support

We abide by IPSO's rules and regulations. To give feedback about our magazines, please visit Immediate.co.uk, email editorialcomplaints@immediate.co.uk or write to Katherine Conlon, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST.

MAGAZINE CONTACTS

EDITORIAL	
Editor	Lucy Bellamy
Contributing editors	James Basson, Fergus Garrett, Anna Pavord, Dan Pearson, Sarah Price
Deputy editor	Sorrel Everton
Art director	David Grenham
Deputy art editor	Niki Goss
Production editor	Juliet Giles
Digital editor	Daisy Bowie-Sell
Editorial assistant	Katie Dutton
Botanical adviser	Dr James Compton
Thanks this issue	Liam McAuley, Jenny Price
ADVERTISING	
Group advertising manager	Laura Jones 0117 300 8509 laura.jones@immediate.co.uk
Advertising manager	Heather Golden 0117 300 8805 heather.golden@immediate.co.uk
Business development manager	Sophie North 0117 300 8804 sophie.north@immediate.co.uk
Brand sales executive	Phil Wallington 0117 300 8807 phil.wallington@immediate.co.uk
Classified sales executive	Elle Butcher 0117 300 8756 elle.butcher@immediate.co.uk
Advertising designer	Parvin Sepehr
INSERTS	
Laurence Robertson	+353 (0)876 902208
CIRCULATION, MARKETING, PRESS & PR	
Newstrade manager	Rob Brock
Subscriptions director	Jacky Perales-Morris
Direct marketing manager	Aimee Rhymer
Press officer	Dom Lobley dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk
MANAGEMENT	
Chief executive officer	Tom Bureau
Managing director, Bristol	Andy Marshall
Managing director, specialist	Marie Davies
Promotions and partnerships manager, specialist	Rosa Sherwood
Publishing assistant	Lara Von Weber
SYNDICATION & LICENSING	
Director of licensing & syndication	Tim Hudson
PRODUCTION	
Production director	Sarah Powell
Production managers	Rose Griffiths, Louisa Molter
Junior production co-ordinator	Georgia Tolley

IMMEDIATE MEDIA CO
THIS MAGAZINE IS OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY IMMEDIATE MEDIA COMPANY BRISTOL

ipso Regulated

Standard subscription rates: UK £64.87 per annum; Eire and Europe £74.87 for 13 issues; rest of the world £79.87 for 13 issues. Distribution Frontline, Peterborough. US distribution Source IPD/Speedimpex. Email intlquery@seymour.co.uk Printed in the UK by William Gibbons Ltd. *Gardens Illustrated* (ISSN 0968-8920) (USPS 015-608) is published 13 times a year (monthly with a Special issue in July) by Immediate Media Company Bristol, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST, UK. Distributed in the USA by NPS Media Group, 2 Corporate Drive, Ste. 945, Shelton, CT 06484. Periodical postage paid at Shelton, CT and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Gardens Illustrated*, PO Box 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495. Unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or transparencies are accepted on the understanding that the publishers incur no liability for their storage or return. The contents of this magazine are fully protected by copyright and may not be reproduced without permission. The *Gardens Illustrated* cover is printed on 250gsm Respecta Gloss produced in Belgium by Burgo; the china clay filler is supplied from the UK. The Immediate Media Company Limited is working to ensure that all of its paper is sourced from well-managed forests. This magazine can be recycled for use in newspapers and packaging. Please remove any gifts, samples or wrapping and dispose of it at your local collection point. All prices are correct at time of going to press.

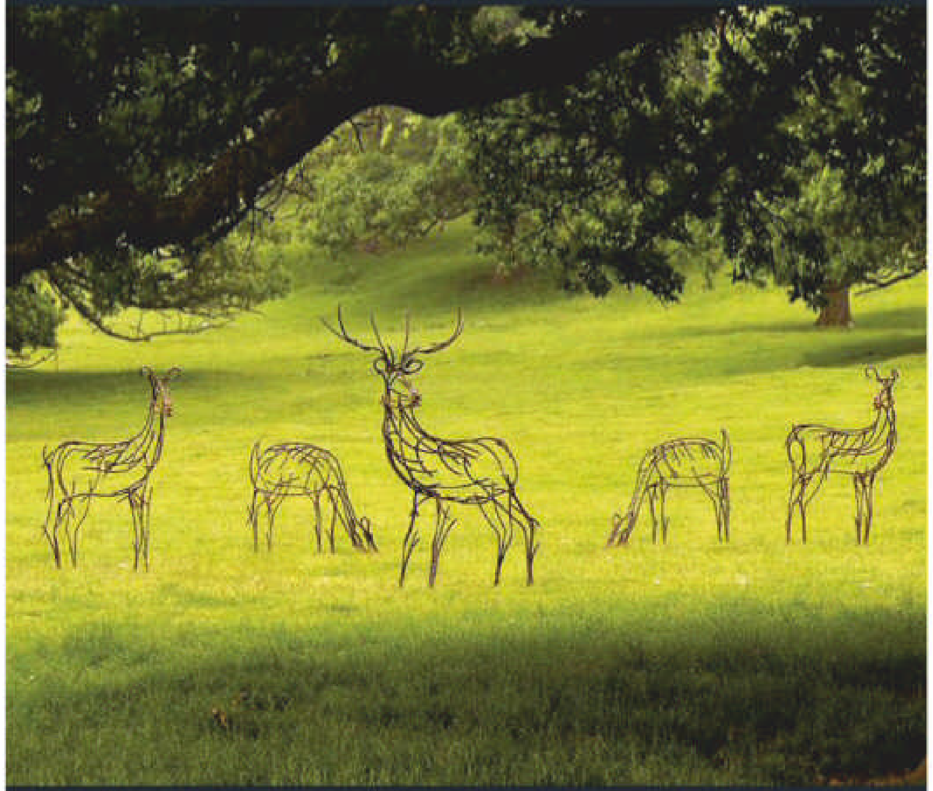
© Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited 2020. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation. ISSN 0968-8920.

recycle

abc Jan-Dec 2019
38,438*
*Combined print and digital sales

LIFE SIZE ANIMAL SCULPTURE

Free UK delivery



www.andrewkaysculpture.co.uk

07740 306412

artisan
PLANT SUPPORTS
www.artisanplantsupports.co.uk

A range of beautiful hand crafted steel plant supports and obelisks designed to provide architectural structure within the garden whilst also complimenting and enhancing the plants features.

Visit our website or telephone to request a brochure:

www.artisanplantsupports.co.uk
Email: info@artisanplantsupports.co.uk Tel: 01538 753128
Woodside Farm, Clamgoose Lane Kingsley Moor, Staffordshire ST10 2EG

Alliance Trust
INVESTING FOR GENERATIONS

More of our best investment ideas
Less time and effort for you

Discover the investment trust that's been trusted by generations since 1888.

Diversification is one of the golden rules of investing, and we achieve this through our multi-manager approach. But we also aim to add value by including only the managers' very best ideas in our portfolio.[1] A portfolio that aims to outperform world stock markets over the long term,[2] while shielding you from some of the risks of active investing. Ultimately, we do all the hard work of constructing a global equity portfolio, so you don't have to.

To find out more, easily, visit alliancetrust.co.uk/time

When investing, your capital is at risk. The value of your investment may rise or fall as a result of market fluctuations and you might get back less than you invested.

Alliance Trust PLC is listed on the London Stock Exchange and is registered in Scotland No SC1731. Registered office, River Court, 5 West Victoria Dock Road, Dundee DD1 3JT. Alliance Trust PLC gives no financial or investment advice.

[1] As rated by Willis Towers Watson. [2] MSCI All Country World Index.

Le Jardin Secret.

11-16 MARCH 2021

GARDENS OF MARRAKECH & TAROUDANT

Join special guest host, award-winning designer Tom Stuart-Smith, to explore the wonders of Morocco's contemporary gardens

GUEST HOST
Tom Stuart-Smith
award-winning landscape architect working on projects internationally.

TOUR LEADER
Kirsty Fergusson
trained at Capel Manor. She is now a garden writer living in France.

This special Moroccan garden tour offers a unique selection of 21st-century, mostly private gardens, designed by some of our best-known designers. Tom Stuart-Smith will join the group for two days to guide you through his own creation, **Le Jardin Secret** in the heart of Marrakech, while in the ancient city of Taroudant on the southern edge of the Atlas mountains, we visit a series of remarkable gardens designed by Eric Ossart and Arnaud Maurières, two French globetrotting botanists and renowned garden designers. A further highlight will be a day of all things Yves Saint Laurent, including a tour of **Jardin Majorelle**, and a private view of the garden of **Villa Oasis**, Yves Saint Laurent's Moroccan home.

In a picture-book setting with views of the High Atlas Mountains and a wonderful climate and cuisine, visitors will discover two warm and friendly cities steeped in history. We will stay at two remarkable, small hotels: guest house **Jnane Tamsna**, surrounded by its own botanically rich and fascinating garden, and **Dar al Hossoun** in Taroudant, an eco-friendly riad surrounding richly planted courtyards.

BOOKING DETAILS: Price per person, based on two people sharing, is £3,898 (single supplement of £350 levied by the hotels).

The price includes: bed and breakfast accommodation at Jnane Tamsna and Dar al Hossoun; five evening meals with wine plus five lunches; return flights from London Heathrow; and all transportation and visits in Morocco. The price does not include any hotel extras or travel insurance.

Château de Villandry.

30 MAY – 3 JUNE 2021

THE FRENCH ROSE GARDEN

Join us for a five-day tour from Paris to the Loire Valley in the company of rosarian Michael Marriott to celebrate the French rose

TOUR LEADERS

Michael Marriott has worked at David Austin Roses, designing and advising for the past 30 years and is an expert on all matters relating to rose growing.

Maïté Delmas has more than 30 years' experience of managing plant collections (including roses) gained at Kew, Bordeaux and Paris Botanic Gardens.

For 2021, our popular rose tour travels over the Channel to investigate the story of the French rose and enjoy some truly wonderful gardens and rose collections. Starting with a visit with the curator of **Roseraie du Val-de-Marne** in L'Haÿ-les-Roses, you'll come to understand more about the vast array of French roses and the development of the roses we grow in our gardens today. You'll also visit collections of wild roses; a specialist nursery producing beautiful new roses each year; a village overflowing with roses in bloom; a fairy-tale château where the discerning owner has surrounded her home with sumptuous roses; as well as some intimate private gardens where roses steal the show. This is an unmissable opportunity to stroll from rose to rose discussing the merits of mulching, pruning, budding, training, and even 'the name of the rose' in the company of a great rose enthusiast and expert. We will stay one night at **Hôtel Les Pléiades**, in the village of Barbizon before travelling down to the Loire Valley to **Hôtel Le Choiseul** in Amboise. Both hotels offer good food, local wines and convivial Gallic hospitality.

BOOKING DETAILS: Price per person, based on two people sharing is £3,280 (a single supplement of £250 is levied by the hotels).

The price includes: one night with dinner at Hôtel Les Pléiades, Barbizon and three nights at Hôtel Le Choiseul, Amboise – bed, breakfast and dinner with wine included; five lunches; return tickets on Eurostar and all transport during the tour. If you wish to travel independently to join the tour at Paris, Gare du Nord, please deduct £80 and contact the office to discuss joining arrangements. Price does not include hotel extras or travel insurance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK EITHER TOUR PLEASE CONTACT

Boxwood Tours, 1 West Street, Buckingham HK18 1HL. Tel +44 (0)1341 241717 **email** mail@boxwoodtours.co.uk **website** boxwoodtours.co.uk

These tours have been arranged exclusively for readers of *Gardens Illustrated* by Boxwood Tours Quality Garden Holidays, a specialist garden tour company set up in 1990. Please note that itineraries may be subject to change for reasons beyond *Gardens Illustrated*'s control. These tours are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate

CLAIRE TAKACS; RHETORICAL ANSWER / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Gartenart
swimming ponds

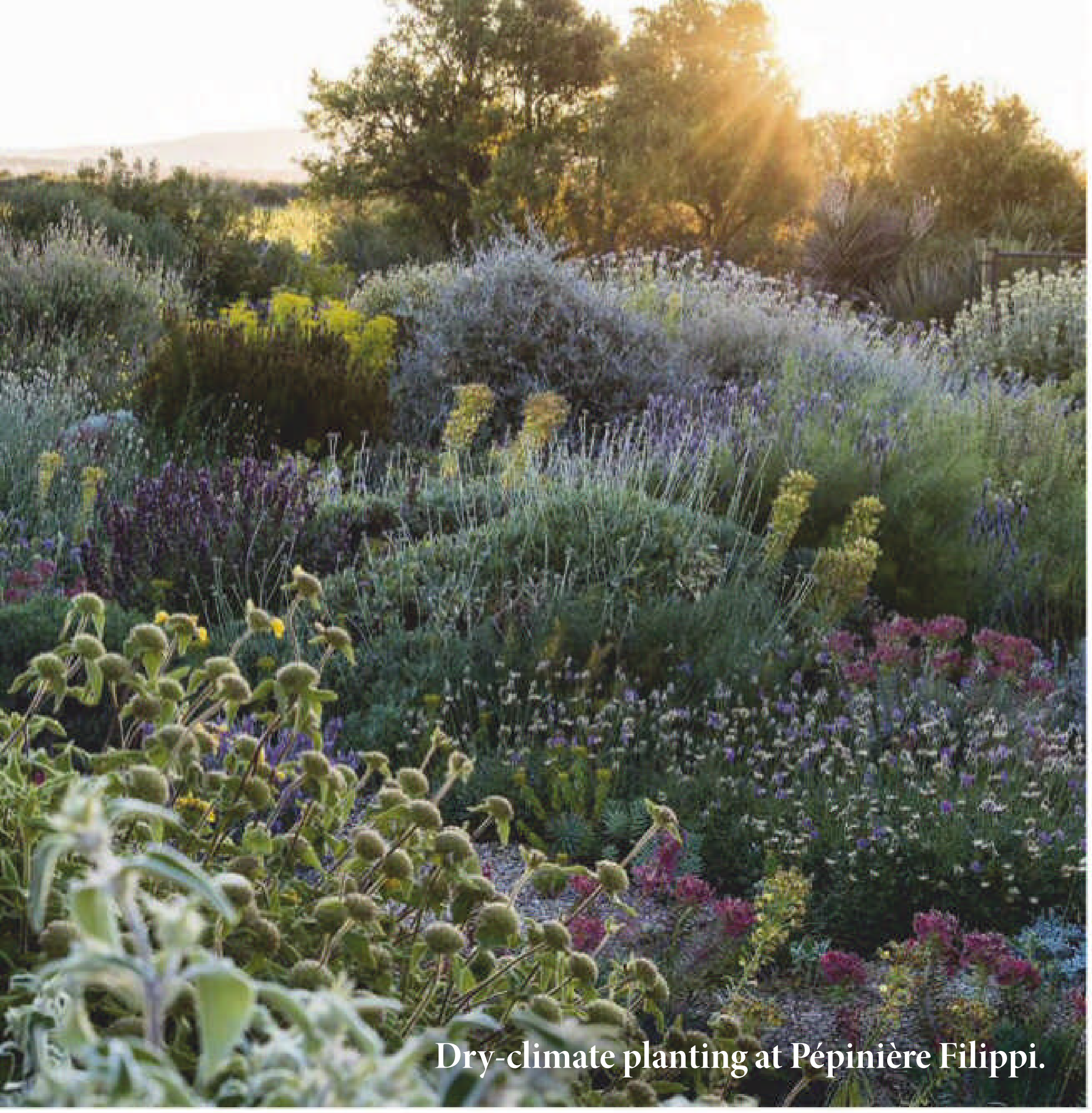
dive into nature

Now is the perfect time to plan your natural swimming pond. Call 020 7183 3333 for a brochure.

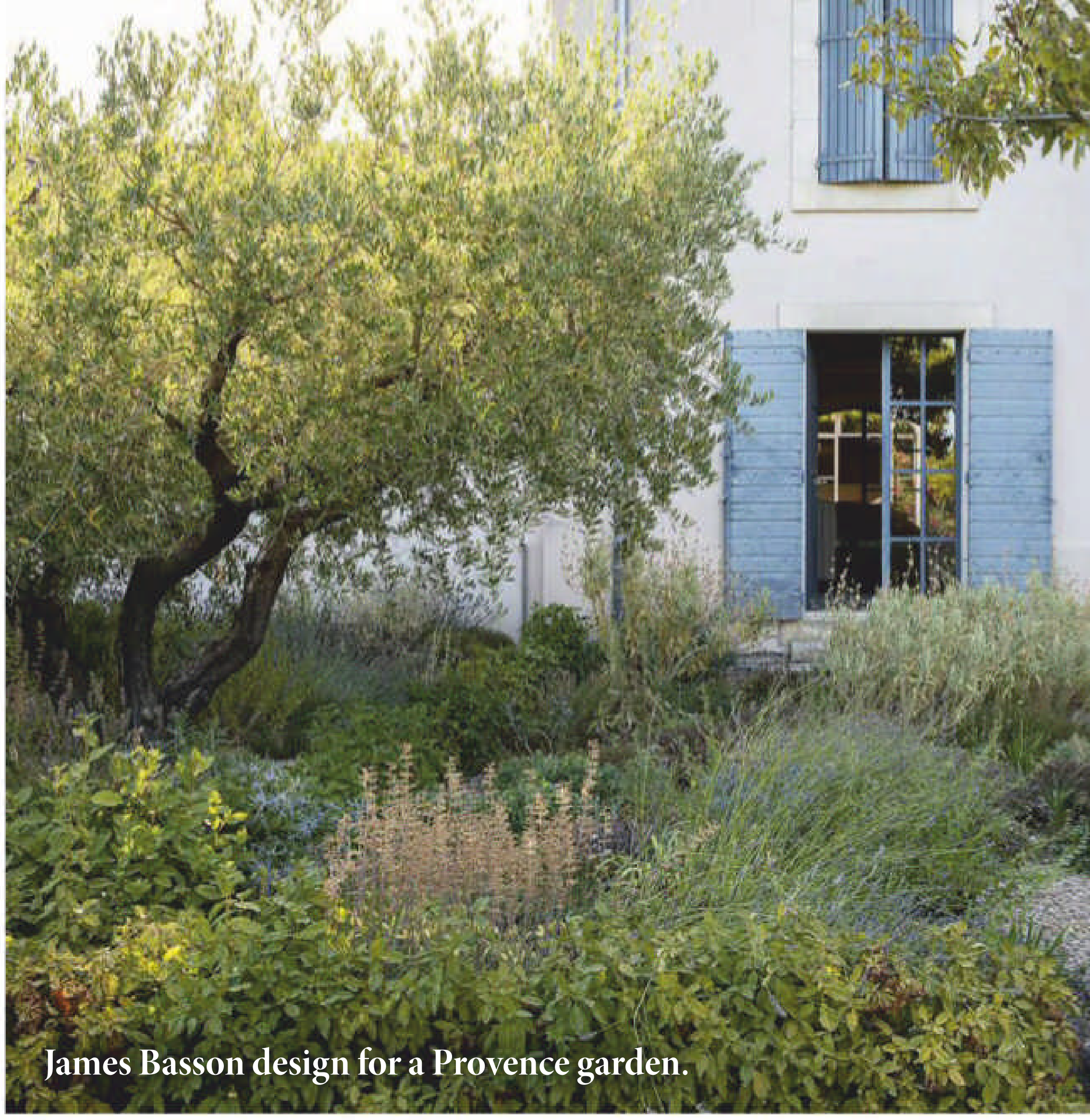
"Last year we swam most days from May 15th to the end of September. Everyone who has seen our natural pool has been enchanted with its beauty at all times of year."

Michael Price *Midlands*

Gartenart Swimming Ponds
Unit 112 Screenworks, 22 Highbury Grove, London N5 2EF
020 7183 3333 www.gartenart.co.uk



Dry-climate planting at Pépinière Filippi.

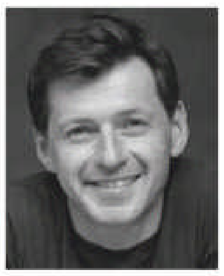


James Basson design for a Provence garden.

24-28 JUNE 2021

PRIVATE GARDENS OF PROVENCE

Join experts James and Helen Basson to discover a new approach to gardening in a Mediterranean climate



GUEST HOST

James Basson lives in the south of France where he and his wife Helen run award-winning Scape Design.

TOUR LEADER

Kirsty Fergusson trained at Capel Manor. She is now a garden writer living in France.

The region of Provence, in southeast France, with its long, hot, dry summers provides a wonderful opportunity to learn how to design and plant gardens adapted to such conditions. The landscape remains essentially unchanged: medieval hill towns rise among olive groves and vineyards, and fields of lavender and sunflowers soak up the sunshine. Dusty roads fringed with pines give way to banks of wild cistus, rosemary and thyme. Hidden behind old iron gates or an avenue of ancient plane trees, old country estates have been elegantly rejuvenated in recent years by contemporary designers, creating sensuous gardens, each in its own way responding to the spirit of place and the designer's eye. Designers James and Helen Basson show us two of their recent projects for private gardens and introduce us to the legendary **Pépinière Filippi** nursery near Montpellier, where Olivier Filippi's experimental techniques in dry gardening have transformed our understanding of Mediterranean gardening practice. Other highlights include the garden designer Dominique Lafourcade's home **La Pomone**, in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, and **Le Terrain**, the garden of artist-tree surgeon extraordinaire, Marc Nucera. Our hotel for the stay is the 5-star Hotel d'Europe, in the historic heart of Avignon.

BOOKING DETAILS

The price per person, based on two people sharing is £3,890 (a single supplement of £490 is levied by the hotel).

The price includes: four nights bed & breakfast at Hotel d'Europe; three evening meals and four lunches, all with local wines; and return flights to Marseille with British Airways. Those wishing to make their own travel arrangements should state this on the booking form and we will deduct £143 per person from the tour price. The price does not include extras or travel insurance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK PLEASE CONTACT

Boxwood Tours, 1 West Street, Buckingham HK18 1HL.

Tel +44 (0)1341 241717, **email** mail@boxwoodtours.co.uk

Website boxwoodtours.co.uk

The tour has been arranged exclusively for readers of *Gardens Illustrated* by Boxwood Tours Quality Garden Holidays, a specialist garden tour company set up in 1990. Please note that itineraries may be subject to change for reasons beyond *Gardens Illustrated*'s control. The tour is financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate

CLAIRE TAKACS

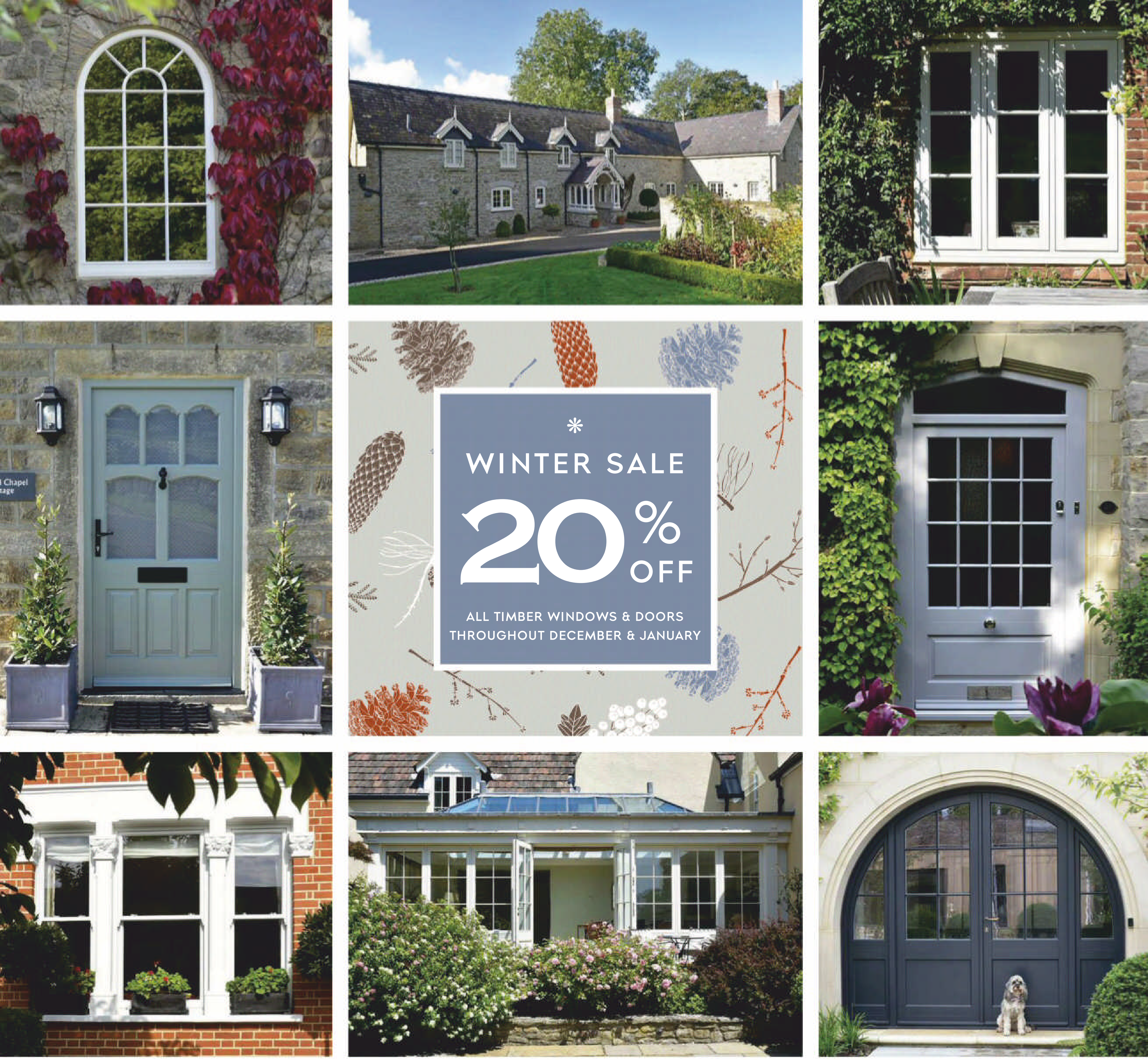
THOMAS SANDERSON

SHUTTERS • BLINDS • CURTAINS

The Beauty of Bespoke

Innovative PowerView® smart blinds, custom-made and expertly installed

Book a consultation: **0800 688 8118** or visit **thomas-sanderson.co.uk**



Enhance the value and beauty of your home with natural timber windows and doors from sustainable sources. Constructed from engineered timber slow grown in cold climates, their strength, stability and beauty are guaranteed.

With a 20% discount off all windows & doors in our Winter Sale, explore the range in 43 showrooms nationwide.

Amersham
Birmingham (Harborne)
Blandford
Bournemouth
Bristol (Clifton)
Bury St Edmunds
Caterham
Cardiff
Carmarthen
Channel Islands
Cheltenham
Cirencester
Colchester
Denbigh
Dulwich
Esher
Guildford
Harrogate
Hartley Wintney
Heathfield
Henley-on-Thames
Hereford
Highgate
Honiton
Horndean
Horsham
Ingatestone
Knutsford
Leamington Spa
Lincoln
Moreton-in-Marsh
Nottingham
Olney
Oxford
Ripley
Salisbury
Sheffield
St Albans
Tavistock
Tunbridge Wells
Wimbledon
Winchester
Woodbridge

TIMBER
WINDOWS

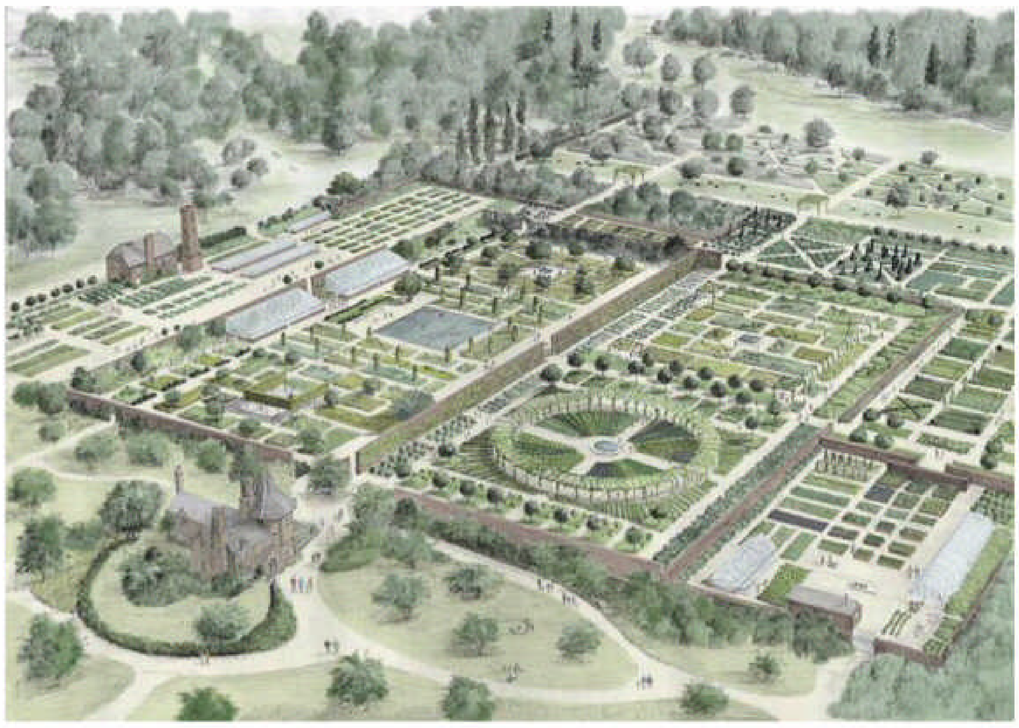
NFA19
WINNER

'2019 National Timber Window
& Door Supplier of the Year'

timberwindows.com/gi
T: 0800 030 2000

Dig in

What's happening, what's in flower and what to buy this month



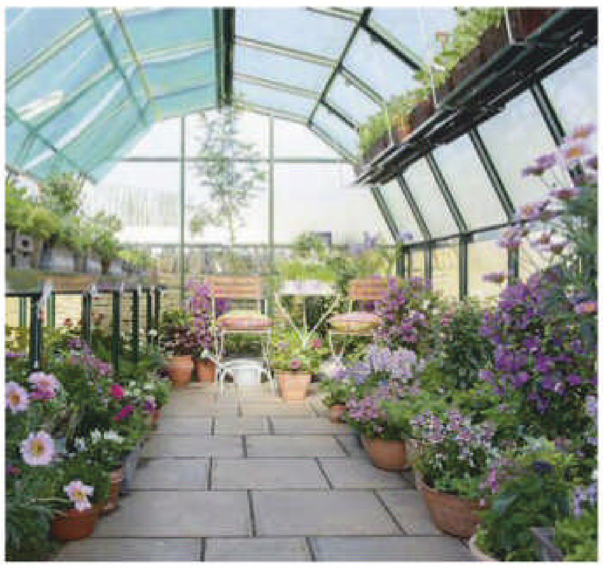
© RHS / MARK WAUGH

Funding stream

The RHS is now a huge step closer towards meeting its funding target for RHS Garden Bridgewater thanks to a generous individual donation. The £1.8 million gift from retired Hong Kong businessman Dr Lee Kai Hung DL will go towards the development of the garden, in particular Bridgewater's Chinese Streamside Garden, which has been designed in a horticultural knowledge exchange with experts from the China Flower Association and which will celebrate the many contributions to British horticulture from native Chinese plants such as *Acer davidii*. The 154-acre garden in Salford, which is due to open in May 2021, also includes an 11-acre walled garden (left) that features a Paradise Garden, designed by Tom Stuart-Smith, and a Kitchen Garden by Harris Bugg Studio. **rhs.org.uk/gardens/bridgewater**

News

COMPILED BY KATIE DUTTON

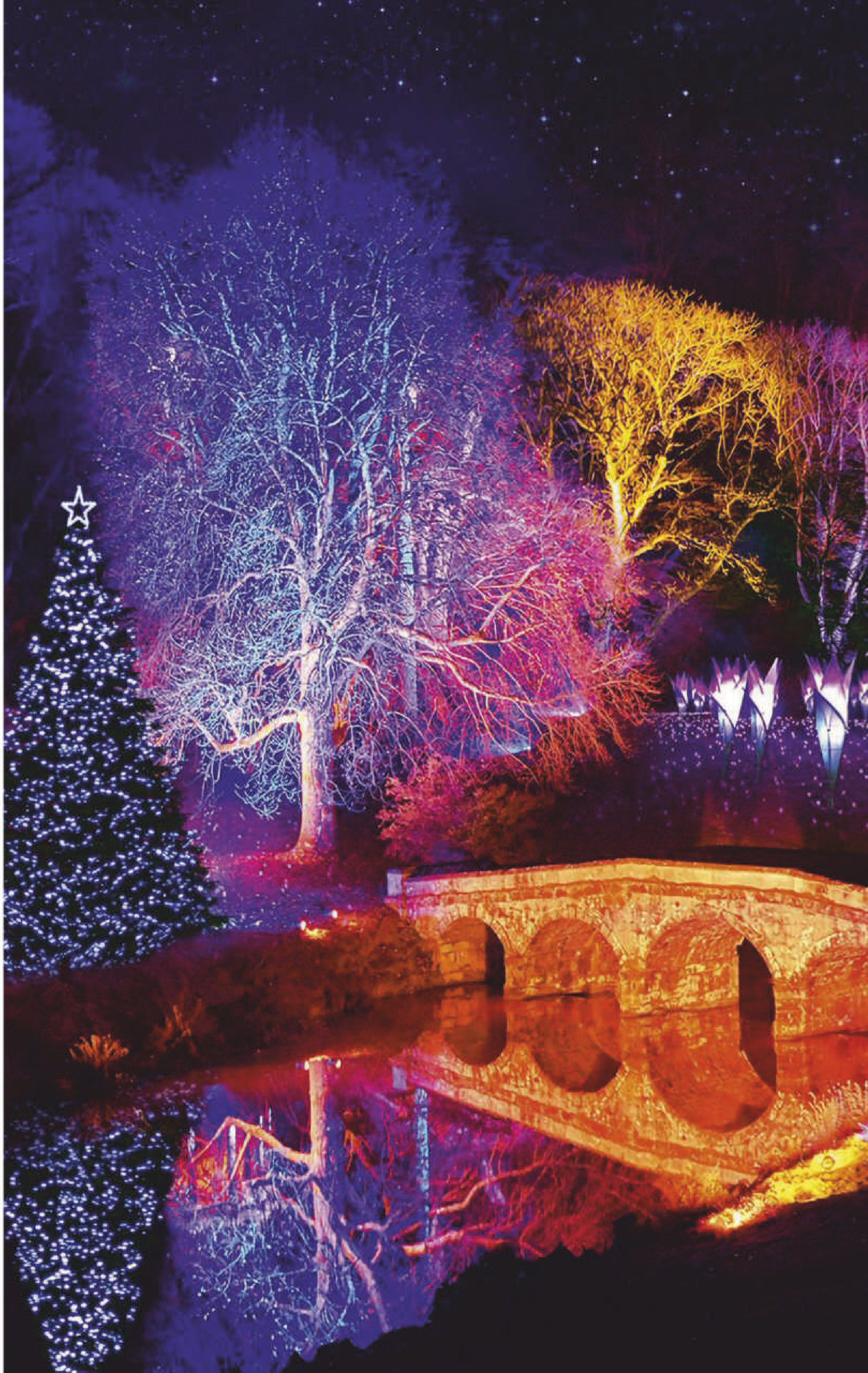


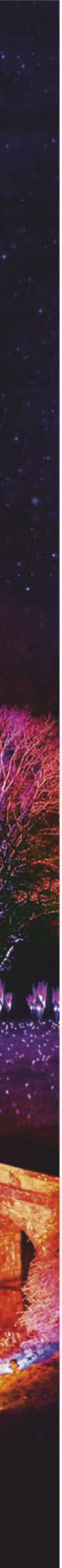
Bright ideas

Winter may feel like the end of the growing season, but for those with a greenhouse, the opportunities are just beginning. Many cut flowers can be grown under glass over winter. Freesias, for example, flower naturally in late winter and thrive in a cool greenhouse. Or you could try the stalwart of many a wedding bouquet Eustoma. *Also known as lisianthus or prairie gentians, these gorgeous flowers from the warm climes of Central America offer a broad and subtle colour palette and have a long vase life. With a frost-free greenhouse you can sow from November to March in a heated propagator then pot on ready for summer. If you already have a greenhouse now could be time to move out the tomato plant pots and make way for some cut flowers. And if you don't have one, now could be time to find your new greenhouse at* **hartley-botanic.co.uk**

Let there be light

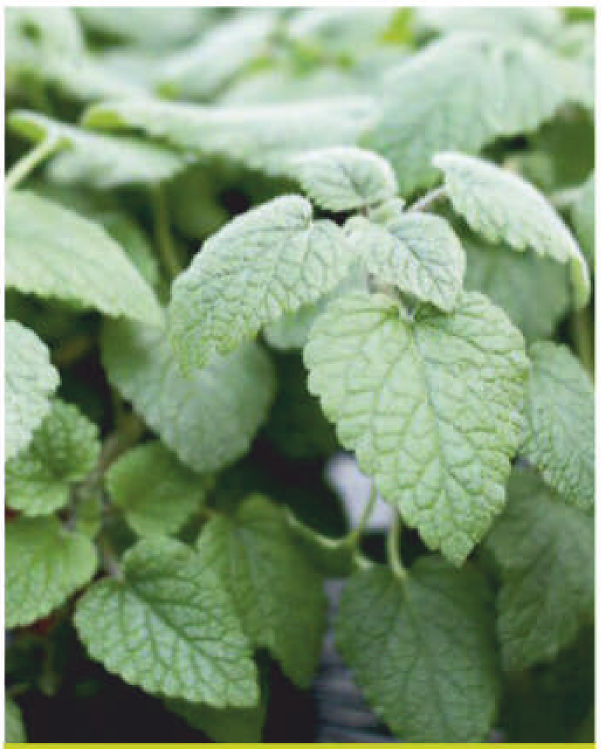
It will be a slightly different Christmas for us all this year, but luckily many festive light shows and light festivals are still going ahead in the open air until the new year. All RHS gardens are taking part, as well as many stately homes including Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, Dunham Massey in Cheshire and Stourhead (pictured) in Wiltshire. Expect lit up woodland creatures and flora, spectacular laser light shows, glittering light tunnels and a glass or two of mulled wine. To find a light trail near you visit **gardensillustrated.com/christmas**





INSIDER TOURS

This winter the National Garden Scheme is offering the chance to take a virtual tour at some fabulous garden,in the company of some distinguished designers. Tours include The Barn, home to Tom Stuart-Smith, Bunny Guinness's own garden Sibberton Lodge and the Manor House at Ayot St Lawrence in Hertfordshire (pictured), which has been shaped by two distinctive designers: the late great John Brookes and for the current owners by Julie Toll. Tours are free to view, but donations to the charity are welcome. ***ngs.org.uk/virtual-garden-visits***



Orange appeal

A new, zesty lemon balm plant has landed in UK nurseries. *Melissa officinalis* 'Mandarina' is the first lemon balm to feature a fresh orange scent that is fragrant all summer long. The leaves can be used to make a soothing herbal infusion or added to savoury dishes for a citrus kick. The plant is easy to grow and is ideal for growing in containers, beds or borders. Its cascading growing habit also makes it a good choice for sloping gardens or difficult areas you wish to cover. Sow in small pots from late February until April and keep on a warm windowsill until all chance of frost has passed. A pack of 30 seeds from Chiltern Seeds costs £2.75. **chilternseeds.co.uk**

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT

Based on the best-selling book by Robert Macfarlane, The Lost Words card game is a new entertaining, way to learn more about Britain's fauna and flora. Suitable for age eight and upwards, it is sure to help all the family learn a little more about, and develop a new appreciation for, the plants and animals that populate the British Isles. A fun way to enjoy the natural world on a rainy afternoon, it is beautifully illustrated by Jackie Morris. Produced by Kosmos, the game is available from Waterstones, priced £13.99. **waterstones.com**

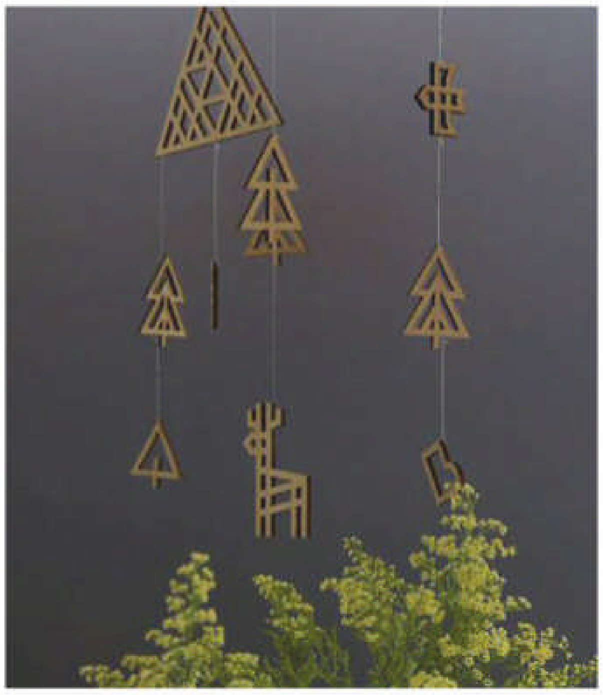
magpie
bluebell
BLUEBELL
the lost words
CARD GAME
KOSMOS

Prickly pals

Their spikes may say don't touch, but for many cacti are the perfect introduction to gardening. Now a new subscription box makes choosing and caring for them even easier. Barry's Cactus Club delivers a different cactus or succulent each month with a pot and care instructions. All plants have been chosen for their low-maintenance, making them a great choice for apprehensive plant parents. A monthly subscription costs £15. ***barryscactusclub.com***

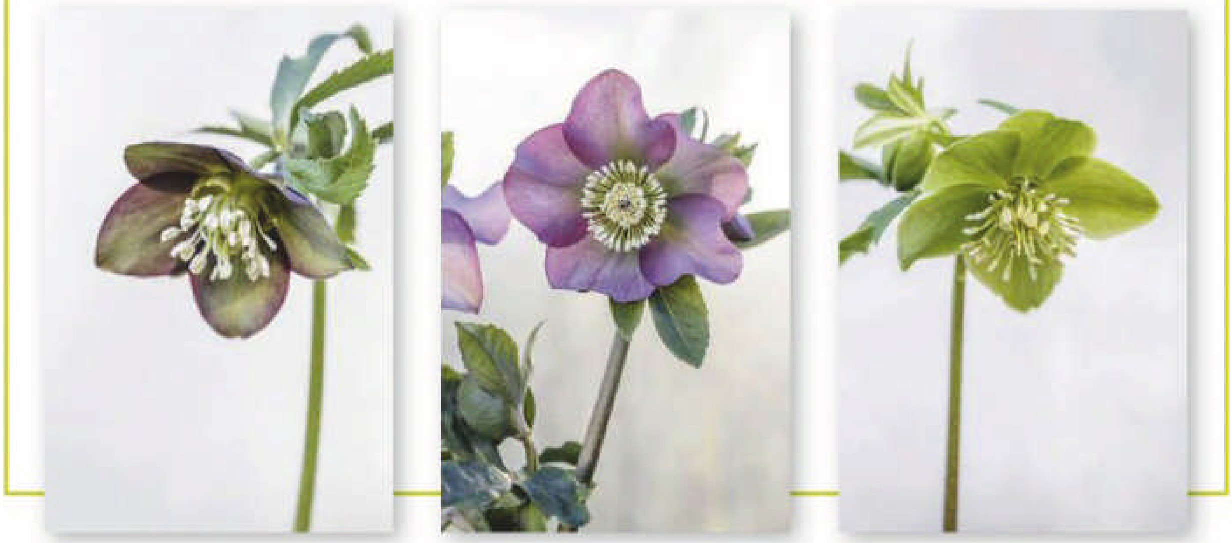
Tree gazing

Still on the hunt for some Christmas decorations? If you prefer natural, understated decorations at this time of year, Sukima may be the brand for you. Based in Hiroshima, Shima specialises in minimalist and contemporary wooden products. Its Sukima Forest Mobile is made from natural wood and brass and is made up of geometric forest trees and woodland figures, including a deer and bird. It comes flat packed so is easy to tidy away and store once Christmas is over but it's so lovely you may want just to leave it up all winter. The Sukima Forest Mobile is available from Japanese contemporary homeware brand Nimi Projects, priced £80. **nimiltd.com**

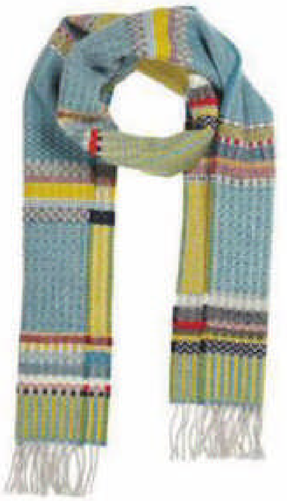


PRINTS CHARMING

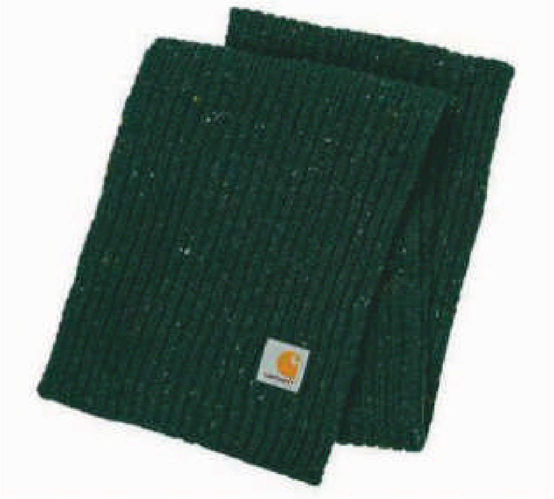
The eagle-eyed art lovers among you may have spotted a familiar plant among the photography prints selection on the Saatchi Art website. The beautiful hellebore from our January 2020 cover (below centre) is one of 12 limited-edition prints now available from award-winning photographer, and regular *Gardens Illustrated* contributor, Jason Ingram. Jason photographs gardens, plants, food and people for many of the UK's leading magazines and is regularly commissioned to photograph Highgrove for HRH The Prince of Wales. As well as these hellebores, the collection includes images of the Oudolf Field at the Hauser & Wirth gallery in Somerset and some stunning black and white prints of the UK landscape. Prices start at £76. **saatchiart.com/jasoningram**



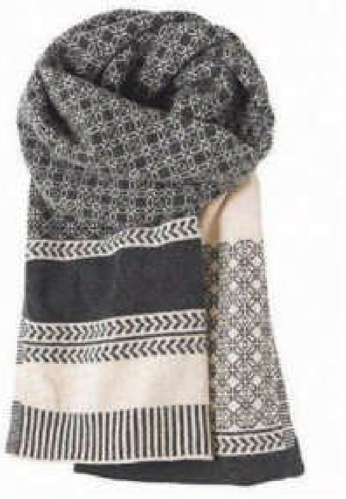
3 FOR THE GARDEN… *WOOLLY SCARVES*



VIBRANT
Lambswool Scarf, meadow blue
£55, Wallace & Sewell
020 7833 2995, wallacesewell.com



SPECKLED
Anglistic Plain Scarf, bottle green heather
£50, Carhartt
+49 (0)7621 9666, carhartt-wip.com



CLASSIC
Jacquard Lambswool Scarf, charcoal
£95, Toast
0333 400 5200, toa.st

Learning with experts

Give the gift of knowledge

Treat your family, friends and colleagues to the gift of knowledge from the world's biggest names in gardening.

Learning with Experts gardening courses offer an unrivalled level of expertise. Taught in our friendly and private online classroom, where you get to learn the full gamut of skills needed to become the complete gardener.

Learning with Experts is the only online course provider to offer you direct contact with the very best experts and to receive personalised feedback from the comfort of your own home.

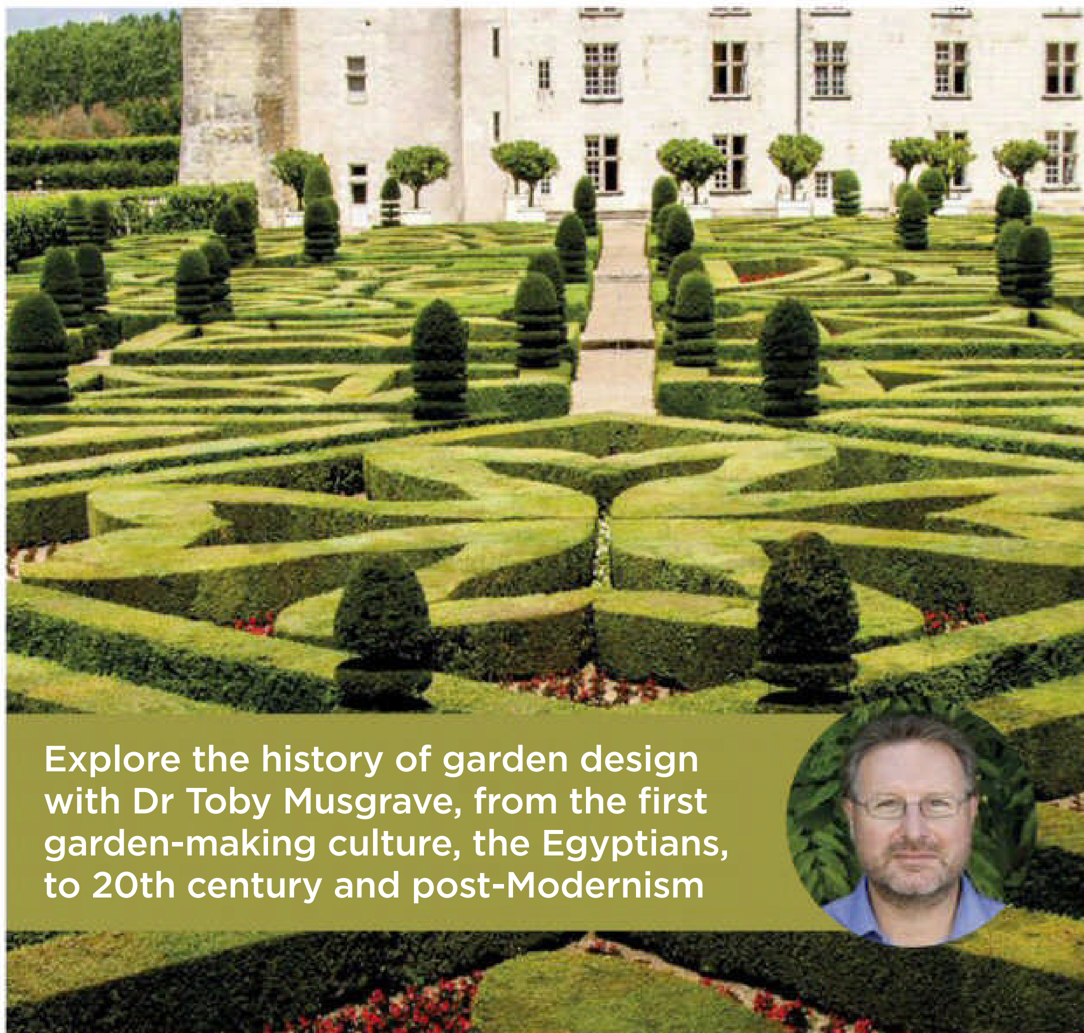
Tutors include landscape architect Tom Stuart-Smith, influential Dutch garden designer Piet Oudolf and his long-time collaborator Dr Noel Kingsbury, garden designer and broadcaster Chris Beardshaw, Michael Marriott, chief rosarian at David Austin Roses, and top garden design lecturer Annie Guilfoyle.

With many other courses and world class experts to choose from, Learning with Experts is rapidly becoming the go-to destination to study for garden designers, enthusiasts and garden lovers alike.

Grab a last minute gift at:
learningwithexperts.com

Learn Piet Oudolf's garden design secrets directly from Piet and long-time collaborator Dr Noel Kingsbury

Join Sally Nex who will talk you through crop selection, managing your land and much more, becoming one step closer to becoming fully self-sufficient



Explore the history of garden design with Dr Toby Musgrave, from the first garden-making culture, the Egyptians, to 20th century and post-Modernism

Your happy place. Ready to spend more time there?

Feeling relaxed, calm and positive is a lovely place to be, especially when surrounded by great friends, family or neighbours. It's this peace-of-mind that a McCarthy & Stone property gives owners, helping them find their happy place every single day.

Discover your happy place today and save an average of £16,471* on moving fees. Search McCarthy & Stone or call:

0800 201 4200

McCarthy & Stone

We have properties available nationwide to rent or buy:

ENGLAND

BEDFORDSHIRE Ampthill, Bedford BERKSHIRE Crowthorne, Maidenhead, Thatcham, Twyford BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Amersham, Chalfont St Peter, Farnham Common, Hazlemere CHESHIRE Audlem, Malpas COUNTY DURHAM Darlington CUMBRIA Cockermouth DEVON Ottery St. Mary DORSET Branksome Park, Penn Hill ESSEX Colchester GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gloucester, Hanham, Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold GREATER MANCHESTER Bamford, Hazel Grove HAMPSHIRE Bitterne Park, New Alresford, Purbrook HEREFORDSHIRE Hereford, HERTFORDSHIRE Borehamwood, Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Knebworth, St Albans KENT Chislehurst, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells LANCASHIRE Carnforth, Chorley, Lancaster, Penwortham, Poulton-le-Fylde, Thornton-Cleveleys LEICESTERSHIRE Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray, Quorn LONDON Harrow, Isleworth, Upper Norwood NORFOLK Hunstanton, Stalham NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Bulcote OXFORDSHIRE Chipping Norton, Didcot, Henley-on-Thames RUTLAND Oakham SHROPSHIRE Shrewsbury SOMERSET Bath STAFFORDSHIRE Alsager, Codsall, Leek, Lichfield, Stafford SUFFOLK Beccles, Hadleigh SURREY Cobham, Sanderstead, Virginia Water, Walton-on-Thames, Warlingham TYNE AND WEAR South Shields, Sunderland WARWICKSHIRE Nuneaton, Stratford-Upon-Avon WEST MIDLANDS Edgbaston, Solihull, Tettenhall WEST SUSSEX Worthing WILTSHIRE Devizes, Marlborough, Salisbury WORCESTERSHIRE Redditch YORKSHIRE Bawtry, Beverley, Brough, Filey, Ilkley, Pocklington, Ripon, Scarborough, Settle, Swanland

SCOTLAND

EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE Milngavie GLASGOW Pollokshields RENFREWSHIRE Newton Mearns

WALES

ANGLESEY Benllech DENBIGHSHIRE Prestatyn GLAMORGAN Llanishen, Sketty MONMOUTHSHIRE Abergavenny

For more information, call 0800 201 4200

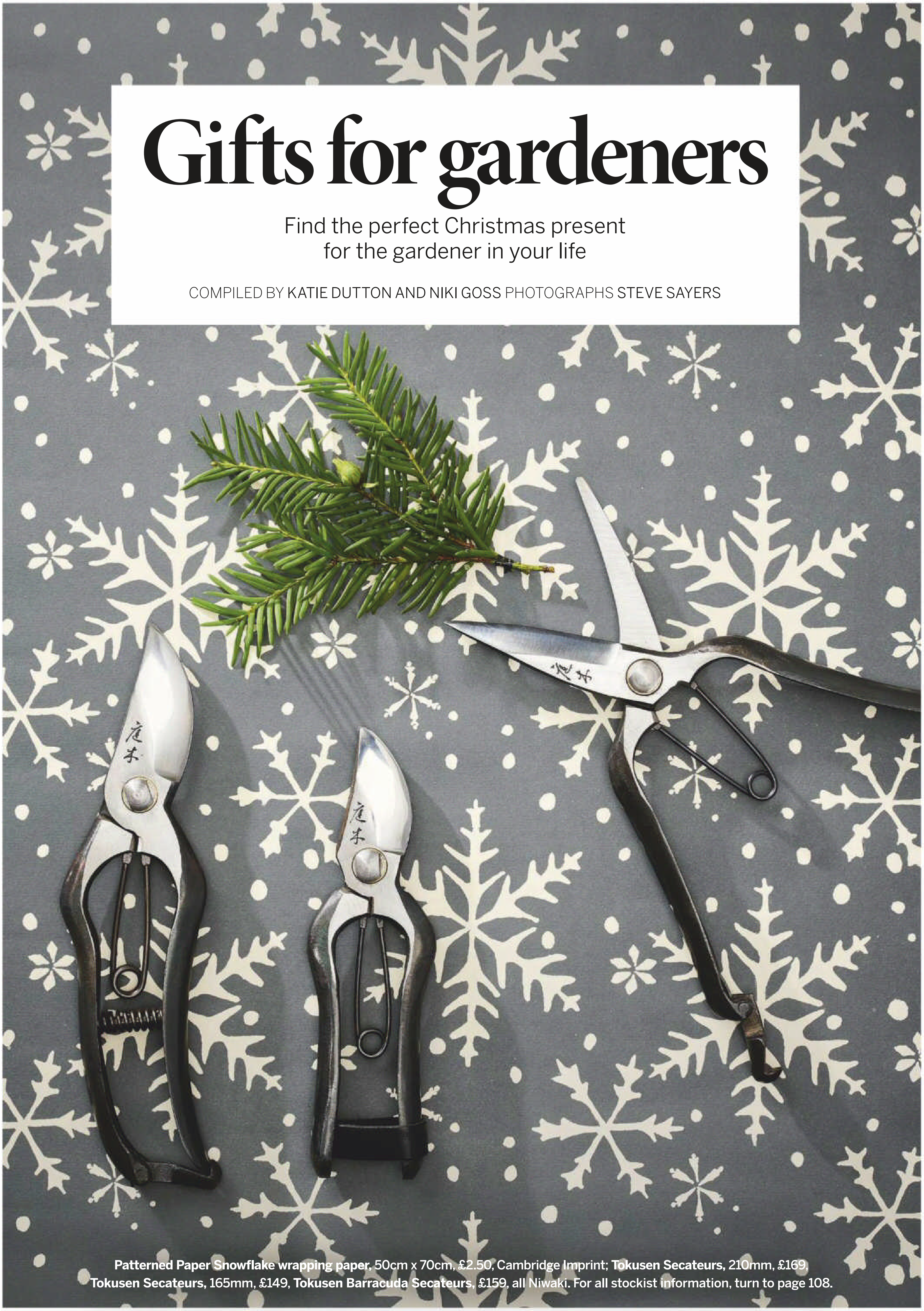
***Ts&Cs apply. £16,471 represents the mean average saving available across McCarthy & Stone's selling portfolio nationwide. For details see mccarthyandstone.co.uk/move-for-free**

SC008532

Gifts for gardeners

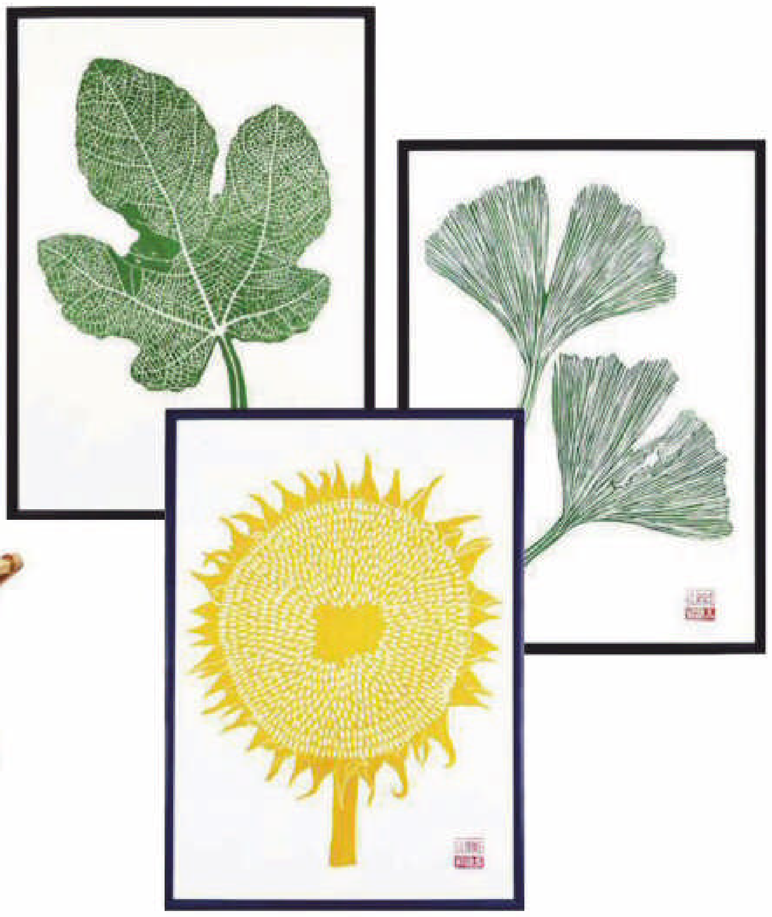
Find the perfect Christmas present
for the gardener in your life

COMPILED BY KATIE DUTTON AND NIKI GOSS PHOTOGRAPHS STEVE SAYERS



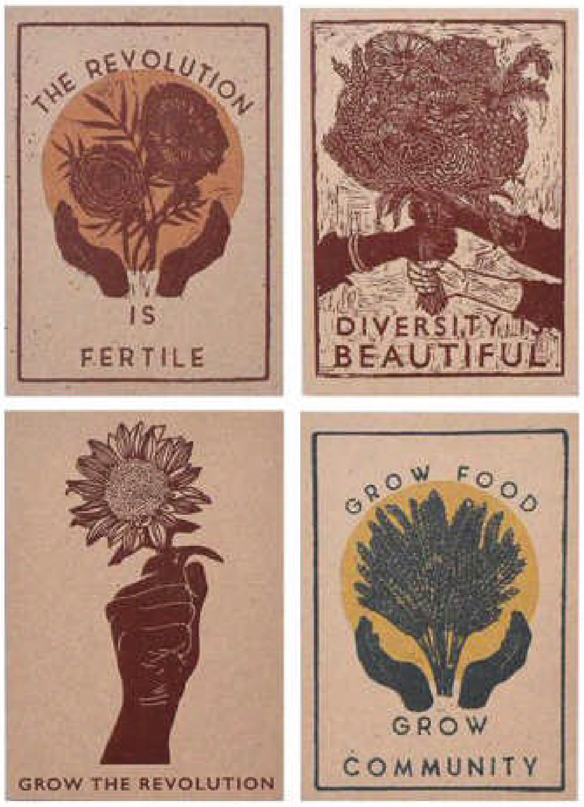
Patterned Paper Snowflake wrapping paper, 50cm x 70cm, £2.50, Cambridge Imprint; **Tokusen Secateurs**, 210mm, £169, **Tokusen Secateurs**, 165mm, £149, **Tokusen Barracuda Secateurs**, £159, all Niwaki. For all stockist information, turn to page 108.

Hultafors
Hultafors



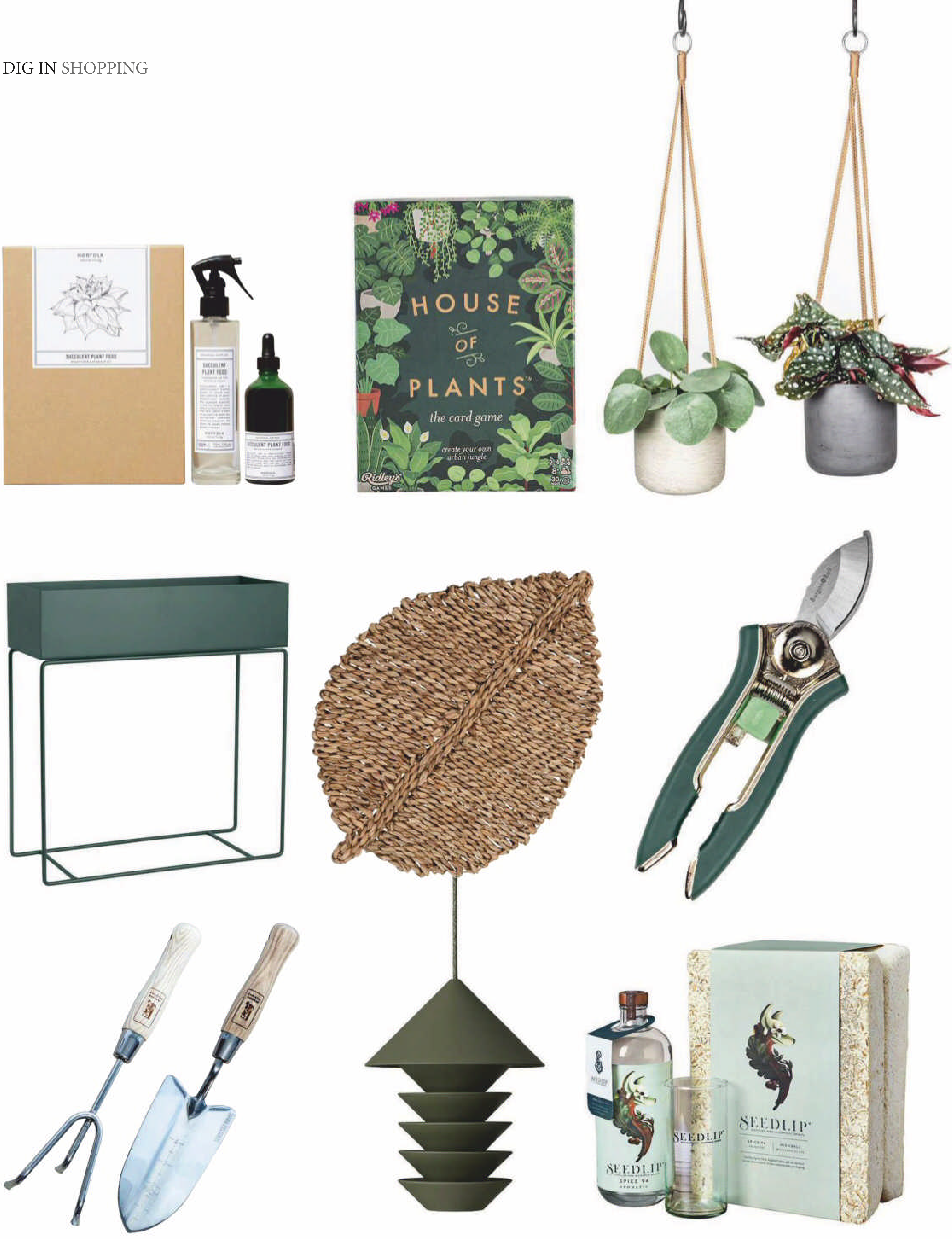
floral street
floral street

Top row (left to right) Leather Work Gloves, £28, Labour And Wait; **Agrimony Cyanotype Print,** £75, The Shop Floor Project; **Orte Gardening Tools Set,** £146, Nest. **Middle row (left to right) Folding Outdoor Bench,** teak, £425, The Conran Shop; **Lino Prints,** £25 each, Studio Wald; **Design House Stockholm Step Folding Ladder,** £450, Connox. **Bottom row (left to right) Sunshine Bloom Scented Candle,** £28, Floral Street; **Japanese Tool Carrier,** navy, £122, Labour And Wait; **Geometric Plant Pot Cover,** yellow/brown, small, £8, Block Design **Facing page Patterned Paper Dandelion Turmeric wrapping paper,** 50cm x 70cm, £2.50 per sheet, Cambridge Imprint; **Handforged Swedish Forest Axe (shown with and without leather sheath, included),** £105, Objects Of Use.

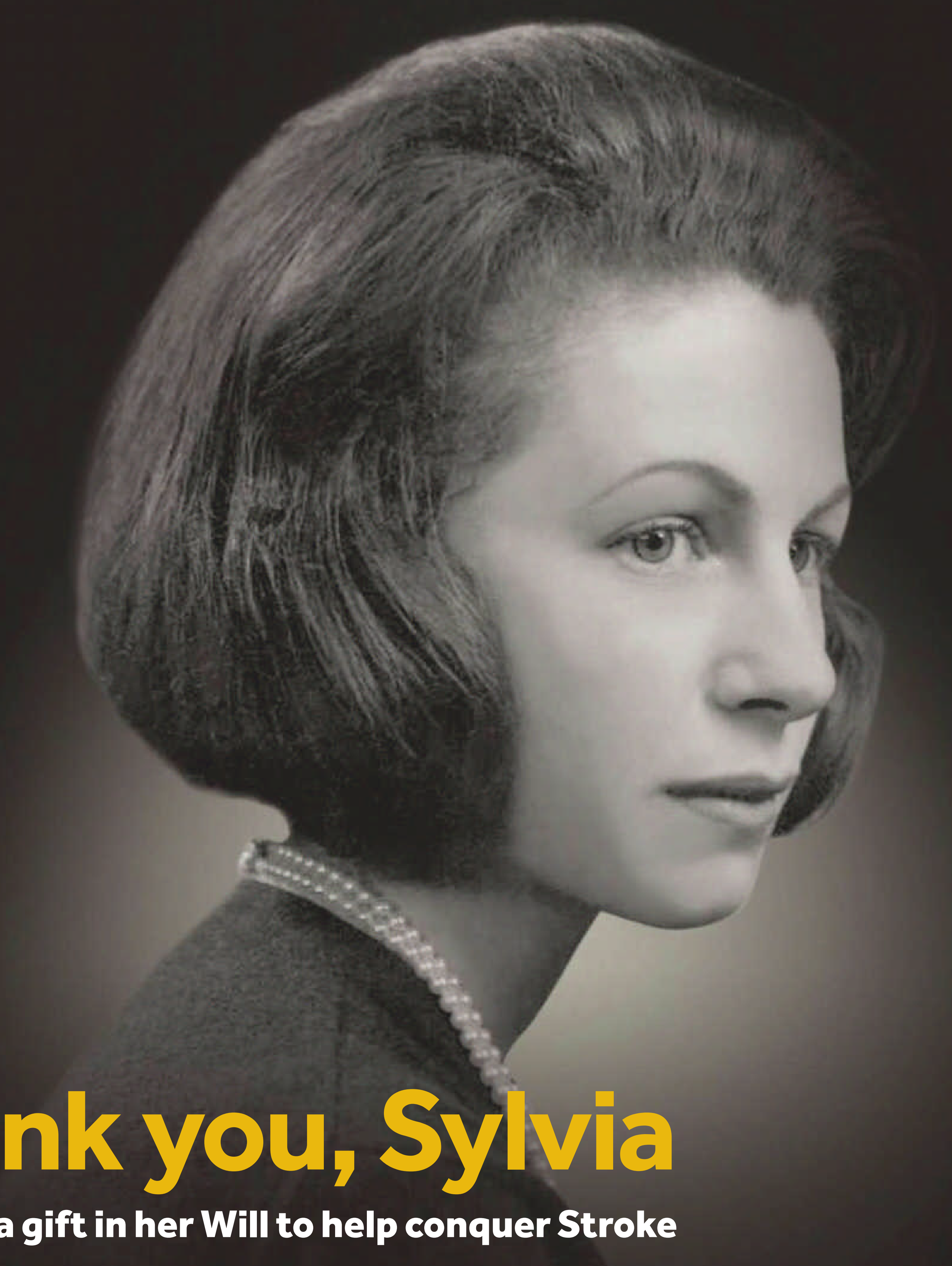

THE REVOLUTION IS FERTILE
DIVERSITY IS BEAUTIFUL
GROW THE REVOLUTION
GROW FOOD GROW COMMUNITY

Top row (left to right) Women's Iris Jersey Lined Wellington Boots, navy, £100, Le Chameau; **Niwaki Trug,** £249, Niwaki; **Pocket Flask,** £26, Labour And Wait. **Middle row (left to right) Ferm Living Desert Chair,** stripe, £245, Nest; **Grow Set of 4 Postcards,** £9, Lewes Map Store; **Cube Rusty Fire Basket,** €271.97, Höfats. **Bottom row (left to right) Brass Mister,** £14.95, Sarah Raven; **Waist Apron,** €85, Yard Etc; **Bee Bricks,** £30 each, Green & Blue. **Facing page Navy Star Patterned Paper,** 50cm x 70cm, £2.50 per sheet, Wanderlust Paper Co; **Copper Hand Fork,** £34, **Copper Dibber,** £36, **Slim Copper Trowel,** £34, all The Future Kept.

P.K.S


HOUSE OF PLANTS
the card game
create your own urban jungle
Ridley's GAMES
SEEDLIP
SPICE 94

Top row (left to right) Norfolk Natural Living Succulent Plant Food & Atomiser Set, £15, Fenwick; **House of Plants Card Game,** £15, Oliver Bonas; **Small Hanging Clay Planters,** £24 each, Leaf Envy. **Middle row (left to right) Ferm Living Plant Box,** dark green, £185, Nest; **Leaf-Shaped Plant Fibre Place Mat, set of two,** £16, Maisons du Monde; **Indoor Plant Pruner & Secateur,** £12.50, Leaf Envy. **Bottom row (left to right) Hand Cultivator,** €10, **Garden Trowel,** €11, both Yard Etc; **Pidät Bird Silo,** green, £52.50, Connox; **Mycelium Gift Pack 'The Nature Lover',** £40, Seedlip.



Thank you, Sylvia

Sylvia left a gift in her Will to help conquer Stroke

The first we knew of Sylvia was when we received notification of the gift she'd left us in her Will. Shortly after, a beautiful story of a much-loved woman began to unfurl.

Friends remembered Sylvia's kind-heart and her wish to help others. She spent part of her adult-life caring for her mother, and developed a passion for medicine. Becoming a medical secretary was her next step and, in the course of her career, she discovered the devastating impact a stroke could have on people and their families. She saw that research and treatment were vastly under-funded, and she decided to remember the Stroke Association in her Will.

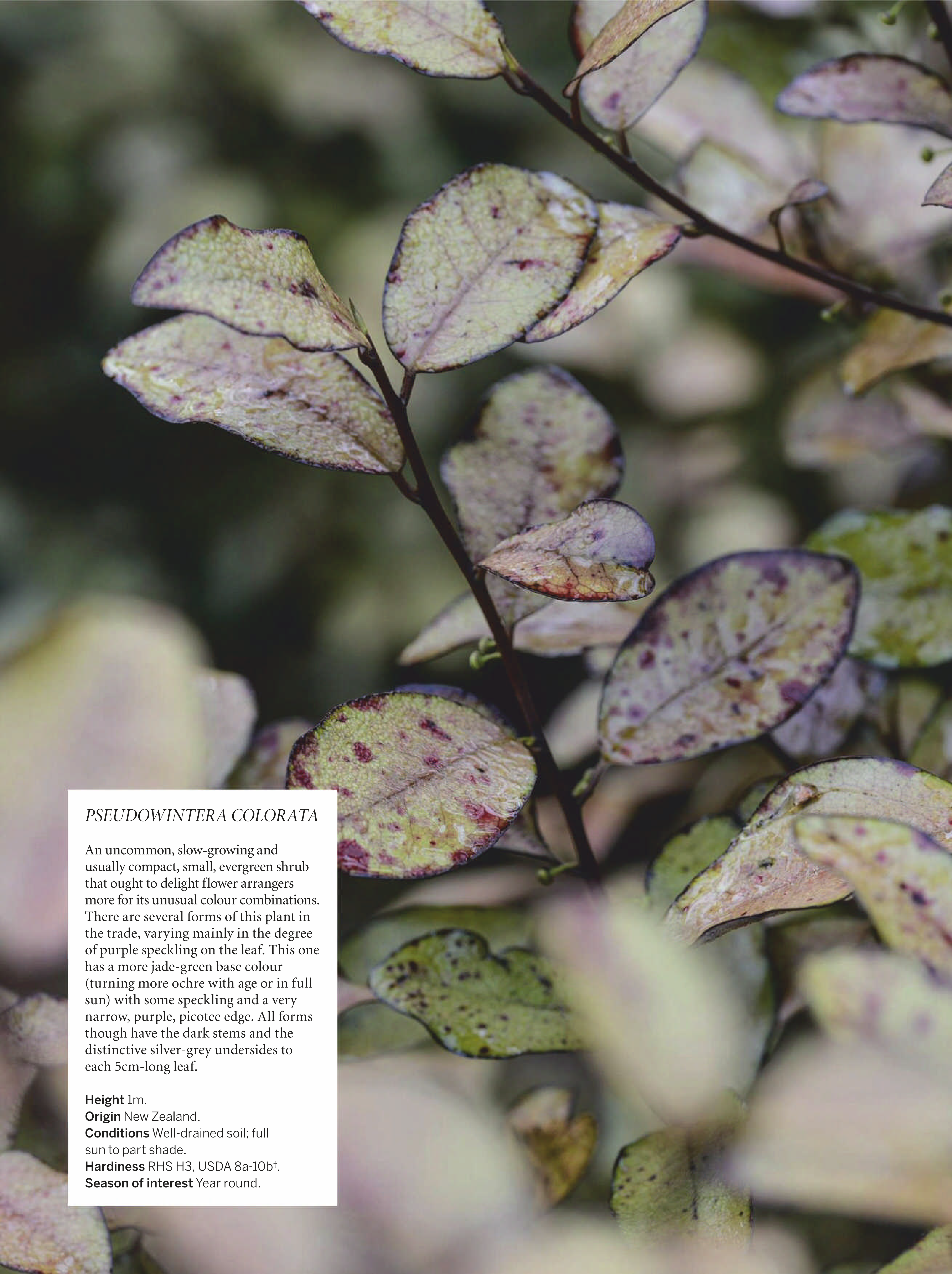
Sylvia's gift has helped fund our work to conquer stroke. She's supported research to prevent and treat stroke, and she's helped care for survivors. And that's something you can do too – in the same way.

If you would like to learn more about remembering the Stroke Association in your Will, please get in touch.

Call 020 75661505 email legacy@stroke.org.uk
or visit stroke.org.uk/legacy

Stroke
association

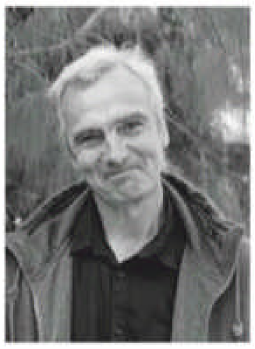
Registered office: Stroke Association House, 240 City Road, London ECIV 2PR. Registered as a Charity In England and Wales (No 211015) and In Scotland (SC037789). Also registered in Northern Ireland (XT33805), Isle of Man (No 945) and Jersey (NPO 369). Stroke Association Is a Company Limited by Guarantee In England and Wales (No 61274)



PSEUDOWINTERA COLORATA

An uncommon, slow-growing and usually compact, small, evergreen shrub that ought to delight flower arrangers more for its unusual colour combinations. There are several forms of this plant in the trade, varying mainly in the degree of purple speckling on the leaf. This one has a more jade-green base colour (turning more ochre with age or in full sun) with some speckling and a very narrow, purple, picotee edge. All forms though have the dark stems and the distinctive silver-grey undersides to each 5cm-long leaf.

Height 1m.
Origin New Zealand.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun to part shade.
Hardiness RHS H3, USDA 8a-10b[†].
Season of interest Year round.

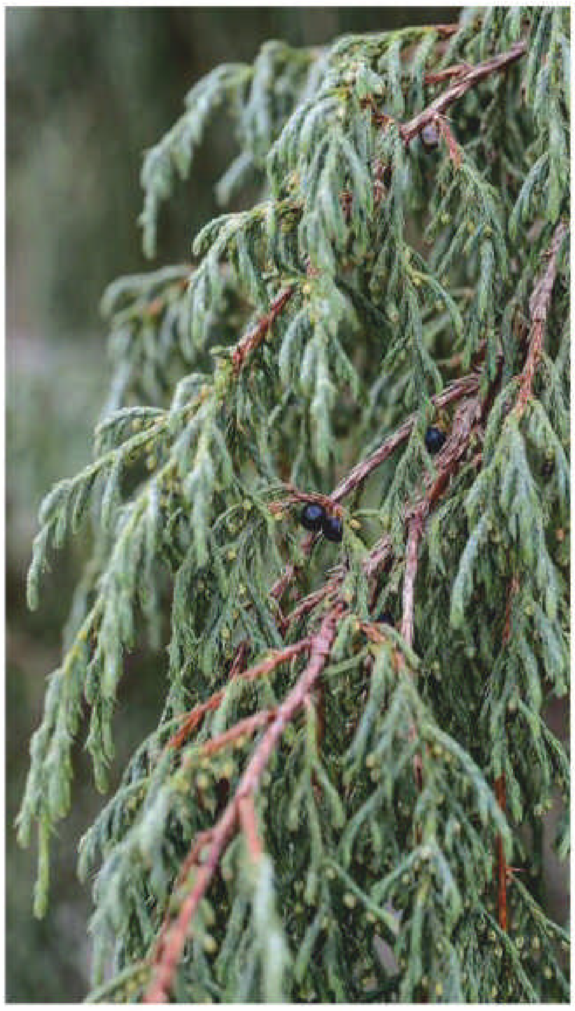

CHARLIE HOPKINSON

Keith Wiley
runs Wildside
nursery in Devon
wileyatwildside.com

December plants

Keith rounds off the year with plants chosen for their winter foliage and bark alongside the heady scents of an early daphne and clear-yellow witch hazel

WORDS KEITH WILEY PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM



JUNIPERUS RECURVA 'CASTLEWELLAN'

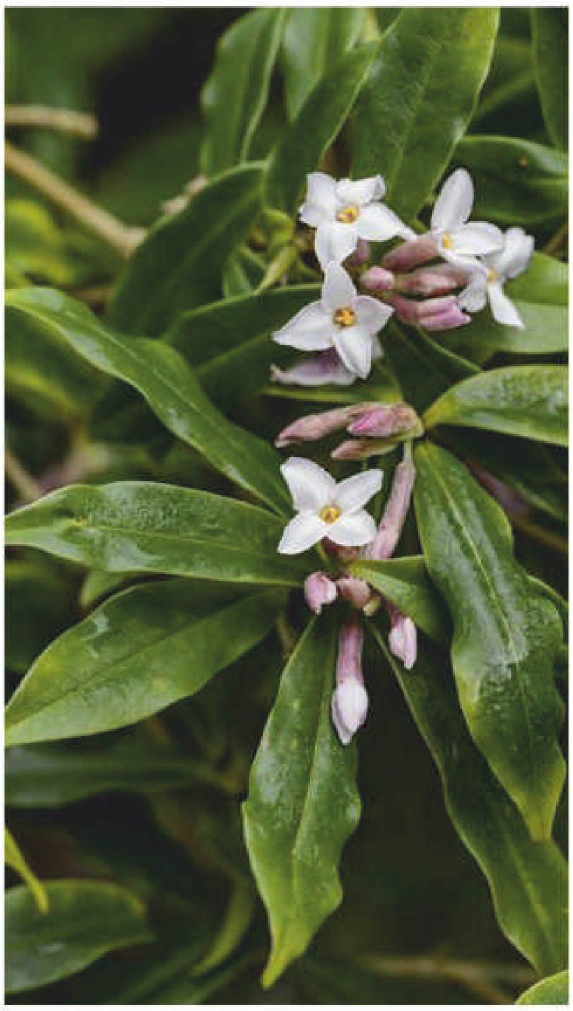
A very graceful conifer with soft blue-grey foliage. This is a small, quite slow-growing tree that has upright primary branches, secondary branches arching out with age and lastly smaller branchlets that are fully pendulous. While these traits are common to many conifers, add the fact this plant also has cinnamon-red branches, turning grey on the trunk, and flaking bark almost as good as the paperbark maple, *Acer griseum*, and you have a combination that elevates it to the very highest order and makes it a wonderful choice as a specimen plant.

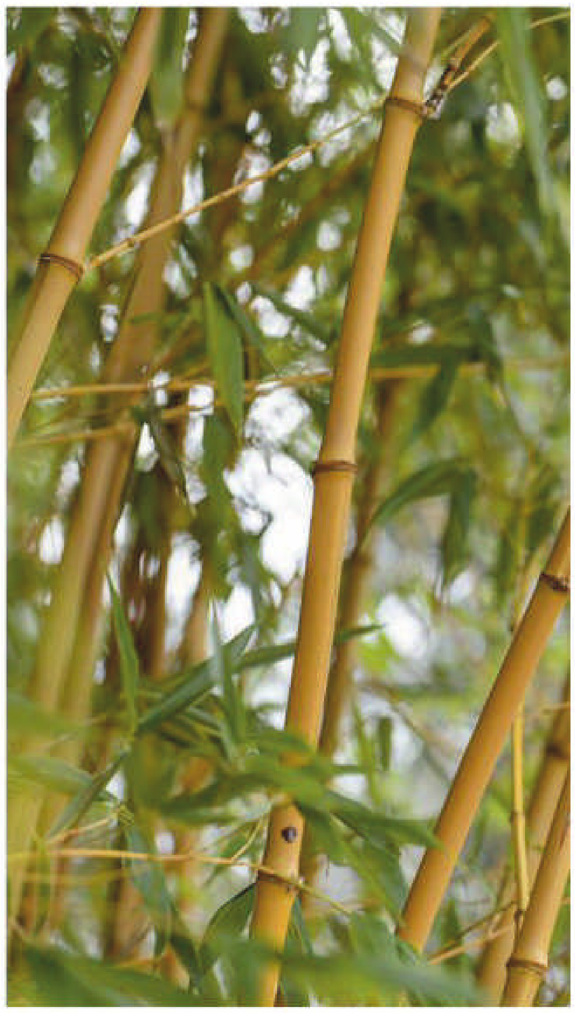
Height 5-15m.
Origin Garden (species Himalayas).
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun to part shade.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 6a-9b.
Season of interest Year round.

DAPHNE BHOLUA 'DARJEELING'

The first of the *Daphne bholua* cultivars to flower in the winter months, usually opening its first flowers in late November. Some of the *D. bholua* cultivars are semi-deciduous, which makes them slightly less vulnerable to cold winters, but 'Darjeeling' is fully evergreen, meaning it is a little less hardy. I have also found it to be not as robust as cultivars such as 'Jacqueline Postill' but that is offset by the fact it produces its heavily scented flowers at least six weeks earlier, a wonderful fillip at this time of the year.

Height 2-3m.
Origin Himalaya, Nepal, China.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun to half shade.
Hardiness RHS H4, USDA 7a-9b.
Season of interest Early winter.





PHYLLOSTACHYS BAMBUSOIDES 'HOLOCHRYSA'

This bamboo has wonderful, deep yellow-orange canes all year, but it's in winter when their colour seems especially welcome. This is not a plant for the smallest gardens as it is capable of growing up to 9-10m, and when settled and happy, especially in warm and sheltered spots (less so in cooler gardens), will begin to spread significantly at the root. At this point the new canes start becoming larger in girth achieving diameters of more than 5cm. I annually remove smaller canes to encourage this process. AGM*.

Height 4.5-10m.
Origin Garden (species China/Japan).
Conditions Humus-rich, moist but well-drained soil; full sun to part shade.
Hardiness RHS H5, USDA 7a-10b.
Season of interest Year round.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. Hardiness ratings given where available.

We have made it a Christmas tradition to pick a small sprig of *Hamamelis* x *intermedia* 'Pallida' to enjoy its powerful fruity scent indoors

HAMAMELIS X *INTERMEDIA* 'PALLIDA'

Usually begins flowering towards the end of December, and we have made it a Christmas tradition to pick a small sprig to enjoy its powerful, fruity scent indoors. The start of its flowering normally coincides with the winter solstice, which is also the cue for the first crocus and snowdrops, so it has become a symbol for me of the new year and the possibilities and excitement that may bring. Flowers for six to eight weeks and has lovely, clear-yellow autumn foliage. AGM.

Height 3m.
Origin Garden hybrid (species China and Japan).
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun to part shade.
Hardiness RHS H5, USDA 5a-9b.
Season of interest Winter; autumn for leaf colour.

HEBE OCHRACEA 'JAMES STIRLING'

This hebe will be familiar to very many gardeners. Over familiarity, however, can sometimes lead to loss of interest and overlooking merits in plants. I was guilty of this with 'James Stirling' but having a plant left over one year, I planted it where its distinctive rounded shape, leaf colour and somewhat rigid texture contrasted with the soft feathery grass *Stipa tenuissima*. It has proved itself to be a hardy focal point, making a mound 1m across and acting as an essential foil to agapanthus, helianthemums and many other plants. AGM.

Height 50cm.
Origin Garden (species New Zealand).
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H4, USDA 7a-9b.
Season of interest Year round.

TRACHELOSPERMUM JASMINOIDES 'WILSONII'

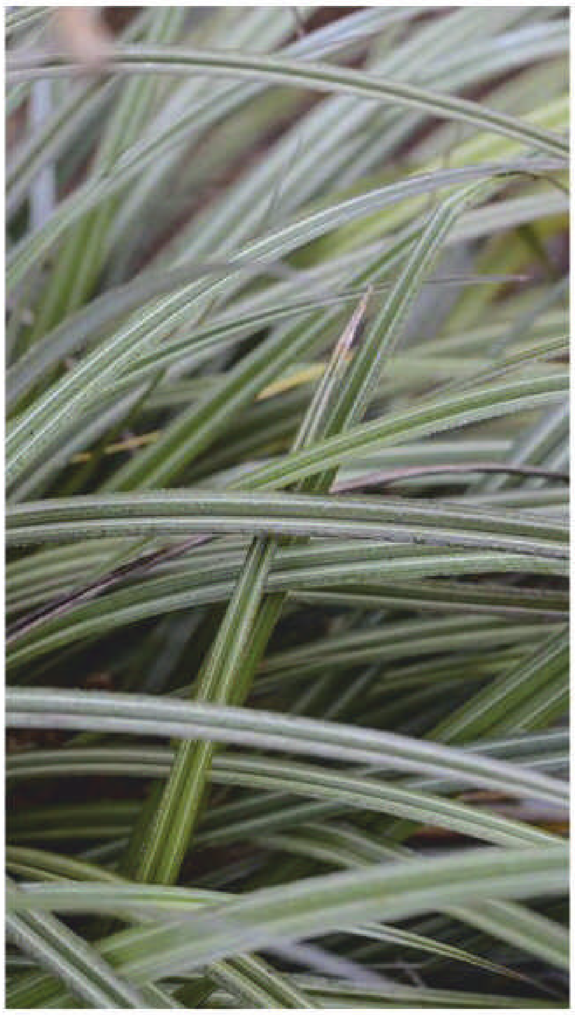
The star jasmine is a self-supporting evergreen climber of fairly slow growth, covering itself in sprays of highly scented, small, creamy-white flowers in summer, set against the dark-green, oval leaves. Not considered fully hardy, it is usually grown against a warm wall but I've found it's also happy growing on a sheltered, south-facing bank where it surprisingly makes a weed-suppressing carpet of foliage, which for much of the year is a richly suffused purple. However, it doesn't seem to flower as much as a wall-grown plant.

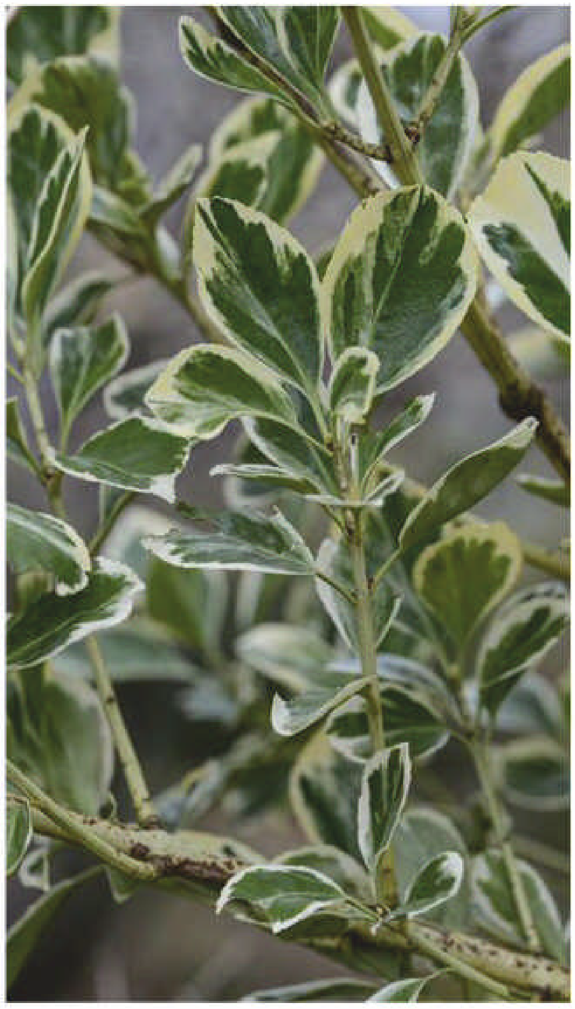
Height 4m (against a wall).
Origin Southeast Asia.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun to part shade.
Hardiness RHS H4, USDA 8a-10b.
Season of interest Year round for foliage; summer for flowers.

ASTELIA NERVOSA

The bush flax is an evergreen plant with tough leathery leaves that merits close inspection for the subtle variety of colours in its foliage. Although this is superficially grey, take a closer look and you'll see jade green, dark green, silver-grey with the faintest hint of crimson along its edge and central vein, all running longitudinally along each leaf's length. This colour combination will link well with many other foliage plants. Makes an arching dome of leaves eventually around 90cm high and 2m across when happy. The flowers, which are held on short central spikes, are insignificant and easily missed.

Height 60cm-1m.
Origin New Zealand.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H3, USDA 8a-10b.
Season of interest Year round.





EUONYMUS JAPONICUS 'PRÉSIDENT GAUTHIER'

A handsome-enough, evergreen shrub, which provides me with welcome additions to flower arrangements through the winter months. It is slow growing and will happily create a rounded bush up to 2m high. For many years one plant I grew did just this, and then one year, perhaps sensing a nearby high wall, it decided it no longer wanted to be a shrub and changed growth habit to become a climber, growing up said wall to 5m in the following years.

Height 2m as shrub.
Origin Garden (species Japan).
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun to part shade.
Hardiness RHS H4, USDA 7a-9b.
Season of interest Year round.

LOMATIA FRAXINIFOLIA

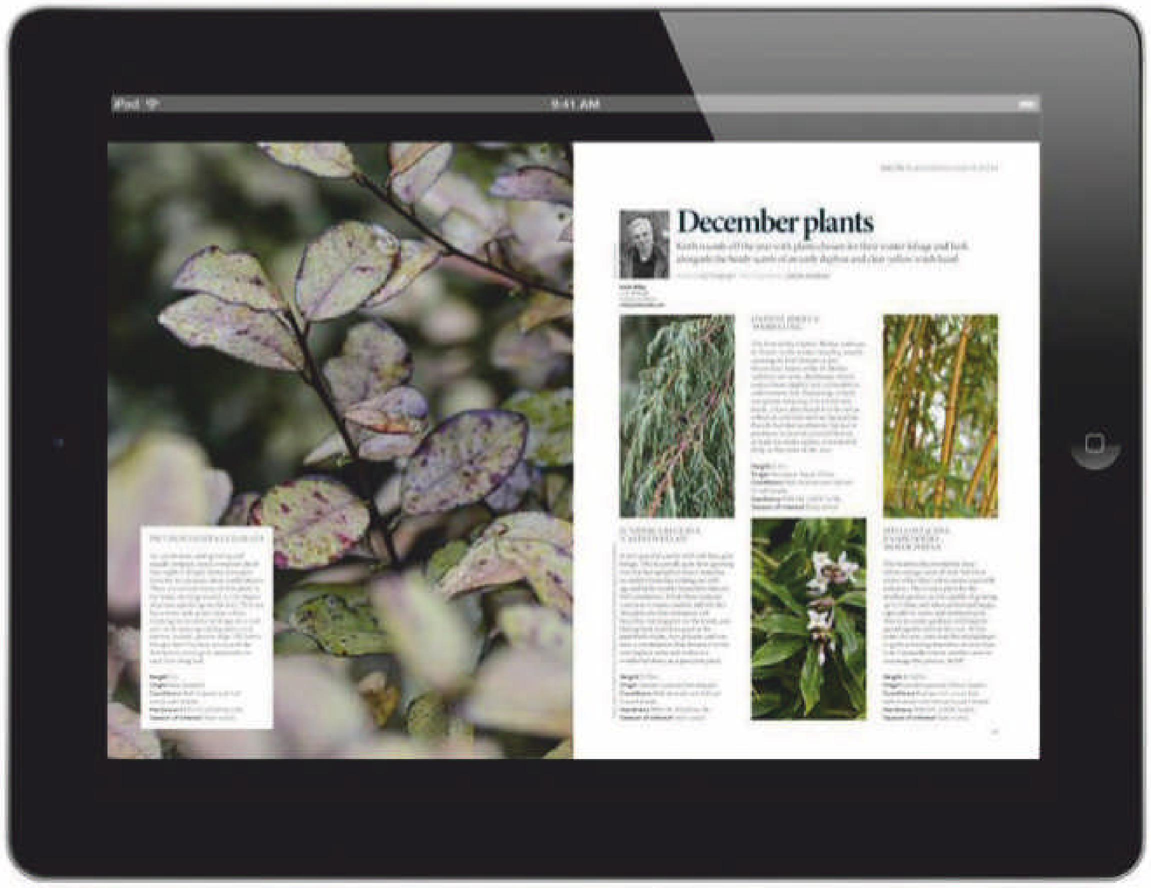
Native to Queensland in Australia, this rare, evergreen shrub is a delight throughout the year. I bought a plant of this when I worked at the long gone Keepers Hill Nursery after I left school, and offspring from it have been with me ever since, rarely showing any damage from cold winters in all that time. Looser growing and more graceful than the slightly more frequently seen upright *Lomatia ferruginea*, it branches from the ground forming an arching mound of much-divided, fern-like foliage that is bronze-tinted when young.

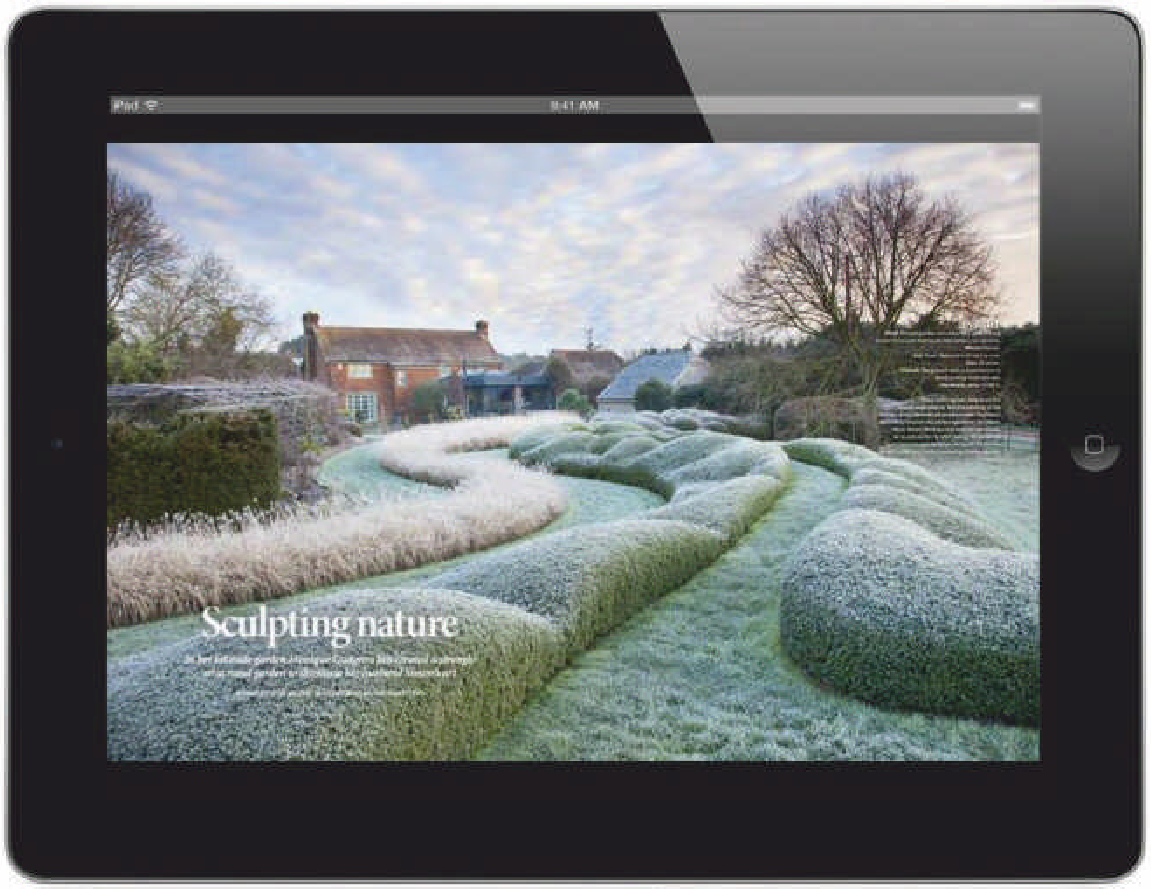
Height 2m.
Origin Australia.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun to part shade.
Hardiness RHS H3-4, USDA 8a-10b.
Season of interest Year round.

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

Save when you subscribe to the digital edition

PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE
GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
Celebrate the season
plants to brighten winter days
Make a wild wreath
PLUS
Win this year's best gardening books
FIND YOUR PERFECT
apple tree
IDENTIFYING LICHENS
on winter walks
Perfect Christmas presents for gardeners


December plants


Sculpting nature

COTONEASTER

A must-have read for passionate gardeners, *Gardens Illustrated* magazine provides a unique insight into the world's most beautiful gardens, expert advice and planting ideas.

ENJOY OUR PREMIUM APP EXPERIENCE NOW

buysubscriptions.com/gardensillustrated

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play

amazon apps Available on kindle fire

SEED VARIETIES —CORN—
221
222
#002348
#002349
#002350
#002351
#002352
#002353
#002354
ORDER
TYPE
LETTUCE
Balsamic
VINEGAR
OMATO
HEIRLOOM
HERBS
SAGE
COUR
SEED
ORGANIC SEED
RAINBOW MIX
ORGANICALLY GROWN SEEDS
PARSNIP
Cucumber
LETTUCE
Butterhead
SOIL ASSOCIATION ORGANIC
ORGANIC SEEDS
Mizuna
SEEDS

COLD COMFORTS

Midwinter is time to look to your soil, as the richer and more vital you make it, the more flavoursome and nutritious your produce. But December is also time to relax with a good seed catalogue and plan next year's plot – and to reward yourself with some comforting meals from this year's harvest

WORDS **AARON BERTELSEN** ILLUSTRATION **ALICE PATTULLO**

Weather permitting, December is winter digging month for me. With the soil cleared of crops, I work through systematically, using a double digging technique so that the top spade's depth of soil is turned over and a good load of organic matter is incorporated into the next layer down. By doing it now, I feel I am maximising the opportunity for the worms and insects to take the organic matter right down into the soil and for the frost – should we be lucky enough to get some – to break up any lumps and clods of earth. By next spring, there should be a good crumbly tilth, perfect for planting out seedlings and even – with a very little gentle digging and raking – for direct sowing seeds.

Up until a few years ago, I didn't give the soil much thought, beyond the basics of creating a good foundation for growing. Then a kind friend in the USA gave me a book about soil microbes and I was officially obsessed. Whether you are 'dig' or 'no dig', the principle is the same: what we take out, we must put back in – and the richer and more vital the soil, the more flavoursome and nutritious the produce.

Then after a hard day's work out in the vegetable garden, what could be nicer than a bit of time spent reading through seed catalogues and planning for next year, perhaps with a glass of this summer's fruit vodka to hand? This is when you will be glad you took my advice and kept copious notes through the spring and summer, so that you know which varieties worked for you and which didn't. I urge you too to seek out smaller suppliers who produce their seeds with care, rather than pumping them full of water and chemicals.

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR CROPS

Chicory should be in peak condition now. With its bold speckled red and white leaves it does look stunning, but don't let that stop you from harvesting it – it is stunning on the plate too, adding a most welcome freshness and bitter crunch to winter salads. Add a little balsamic vinegar to your dressing to really bring out the flavour.

Root vegetables, such as parsnips and turnips, and greens such as kale and chard will all benefit from a cold snap, which will turn the starches they contain into sugars and make them even more flavoursome. It is hard to imagine anything more delicious and comforting on a cold dark day than a dish of caramelised root vegetables or a hearty, warming stew made with lentils with greens. □

You can find Aaron's delicious recipe for warm spiced lentils with cavolo nero at gardensillustrated.com/recipes

Jobs for December

Check on any stored produce to make sure it is still dry, safe from predators and free of any rot.

If you are using your own compost to enrich the soil, either by digging it in or spreading a thick layer of mulch, make sure you take the well-rotted stuff from the middle of the heap. Use the outer layers to start a new heap, or as a mulch for soft fruit, rhubarb and artichokes.

Before you start ordering seed, take a few minutes to do a quick audit of what you already have. While some seeds – parsnip being the most obvious example – do need to be absolutely fresh in order to germinate, many will keep for a good few years provided they are stored in a cool dry place and, ideally, in an airtight container.

With no crops in the ground, this is an excellent time to reassess the framework of the garden – paths, fences, etc – and make any significant changes or carry out essential repairs.

If like my friend George you have spent the whole summer talking about how you wish you had more fruit in the garden, this is the time to do something about it. The soil should still be warm enough for planting bareroot trees and fruit bushes, and you should not have to worry too much about them drying out. Once they're in the ground, mulch with a good layer of compost from the outside of the heap. Don't forget to support trees with a sturdy stake.

Any carrots that are still in the ground should be dug up and eaten this month. I find that after the New Year, they tend to toughen up and develop lots of unappealing wispy white hairs.

Leeks and parsnips can be left in the ground and dug up as and when you need them. If there is a hard frost you might find it difficult to get them out, so if the forecast is for a prolonged spell of bad weather, make sure to harvest a few in advance.

If you are intending to force chicory and haven't got round to it yet, this really is your last chance to get the plants out of the ground, cut back and packed into a large pot of sandy compost before the frosts hit. Cover, and keep them somewhere cool, dry and dark.

If you don't already have a bird feeder, get one. I have one hanging from the gutter outside my kitchen window, and it brings me so much pleasure to watch the birds go about their business. It is more entertaining than any TV show.

GARDENING TALENT

ALEXANDER SUMMERS

With a knack for successfully caring for plants from around the world, Alex works as glasshouse supervisor at Cambridge University Botanic Garden

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Earliest gardening memory Helping my parents to hand dig a pond in the back garden. It is now well established and adds so much life to the garden, as well as a whole array of extra niches for marginal and aquatic plant species.

Who has inspired your career the most? My parents – they are both horticulturists. I grew up gardening with them, visiting gardens and nurseries and exploring Nottinghamshire.

Favourite landscape and garden Chanticleer Garden in Pennsylvania – its Arts and Crafts feel, its botanically rich and imaginative plantings, and the ethos that underpins a horticultural team who dabble with pottery and metalwork in the down season, really put this garden on another level.

Worthwhile tips for every gardener Always question the methods and techniques you're taught: horticulture is steeped in tradition, some of which is unfounded. Always seek out the best tools for the job and look after them.

Dream plant destination The steamy tropical forests and temperate highlands of the island of New Guinea; it's been top of my list for as long as I can remember.

Favourite 'weed' you're happy to have in your garden In the glasshouses we leave any rogue ferns that germinate – they always soften our plantings and help to improve the microclimate of pot culture.

Favourite gardening book Like many other gardeners, I've accumulated a vast array of books, I've recently finished *One River: Explorations and Discoveries in the Amazon Rainforest* by Wade Davis. It's an ethnobotanical odyssey, and one I recommend to any budding plant explorer.

What's the next project you'll be tackling in the glasshouse at the botanic gardens We're installing a *koppie* and quartz plain to display collections we made, alongside Kew and South African National Parks, in the Richtersveld, South Africa.

Do you have an aim in your gardening career that you'd really like to achieve? Have a go at growing *Rafflesia*, I am particularly fond of parasitic plants. The aim would be to raise it successfully from seed, although I think this may remain a pipe dream.

Contact aes59@cam.ac.uk; Twitter: @CamPlantsman; botanic.cam.ac.uk

> We leave any rogue ferns that germinate – they always soften our plantings

Adderley Travel
small group garden tours for garden lovers everywhere
WE'RE GOOD TO GO
adderleytravel.com
for COVID-planned 2021 season tours

the gardens at Rousham House, Oxfordshire

The
ENGLISH GARDENING SCHOOL
— *CHELSEA* —

ONE YEAR GOOD GARDENING DIPLOMA
September 2021 – June 2022
Covers the best in planting design while training in the more serious aspects of horticultural techniques. Practical sessions held at Arundel Castle under the guidance of head gardener Martin Duncan and at Sandhill Farm House, Rogate. Lectures by many leading gardening personalities and regular visits to outstanding private gardens. Students also learn to draw up planting plans.
(1 day a week (Tues), 10.30am–3.15pm, over three terms)

THE ESSENTIAL GARDEN DESIGN DIPLOMA
January – March 2022
Based at the Chelsea Physic Garden and led by Rosemary Alexander and architect Catriona Rowbotham, the course is an overview of Garden Design, covering all the elements needed to rethink an average garden. Taking students step by step through site surveying, using the grid, horizontal and vertical features, garden layouts and planting plans, costing and specification, plus drawing tuition and homework on design and plant portfolios. Tutors are well respected in the industry and will guide students on how to succeed in this diverse profession.
(2 days a week (Wed & Thu), 10.30am–3.15pm, plus 2 days homework)

GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS
Wednesday & Thursday 21/22 April & 5/6 May 2021
One of our most popular courses, led by master horticulturist Ben Pope, which aims to take each student through all the practical elements of caring for a garden from soil, tools, maintenance, seed sowing and propagating, weed control and pests and diseases. The first 3 days will be spent at the Chelsea Physic Garden and the final day will be spent gaining practical experience in Rosemary Alexander's much praised garden near Petersfield and the garden nearby, where Ben is in charge. Participants will be given a chance to prune, plant, sow seeds and regular maintenance tasks will be discussed. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided daily.

GARDEN DESIGN & CARING FOR YOUR GARDEN
Distance Learning Courses study anytime, anywhere in the world
A stepping stone to a new career. These two correspondence courses are a step by step guide to either designing your own garden or learning how to plant and maintain an existing garden: drawing up plans, hard landscaping, site analysis, planting, month by month tasks etc. Taught through a comprehensive course book, with projects submitted to us. (*1-3 years to complete and individual assessment)*

Garden of Medicinal Plants – Chelsea Physic Garden Photo: R Alexander

Not sure which Diploma course is for you? We prefer potential students to attend an Information Session when Rosemary explains the whole course content and you can see our facilities at the historic Chelsea Physic Garden.

JUST CONTACT US TO SET UP A DATE/TIME

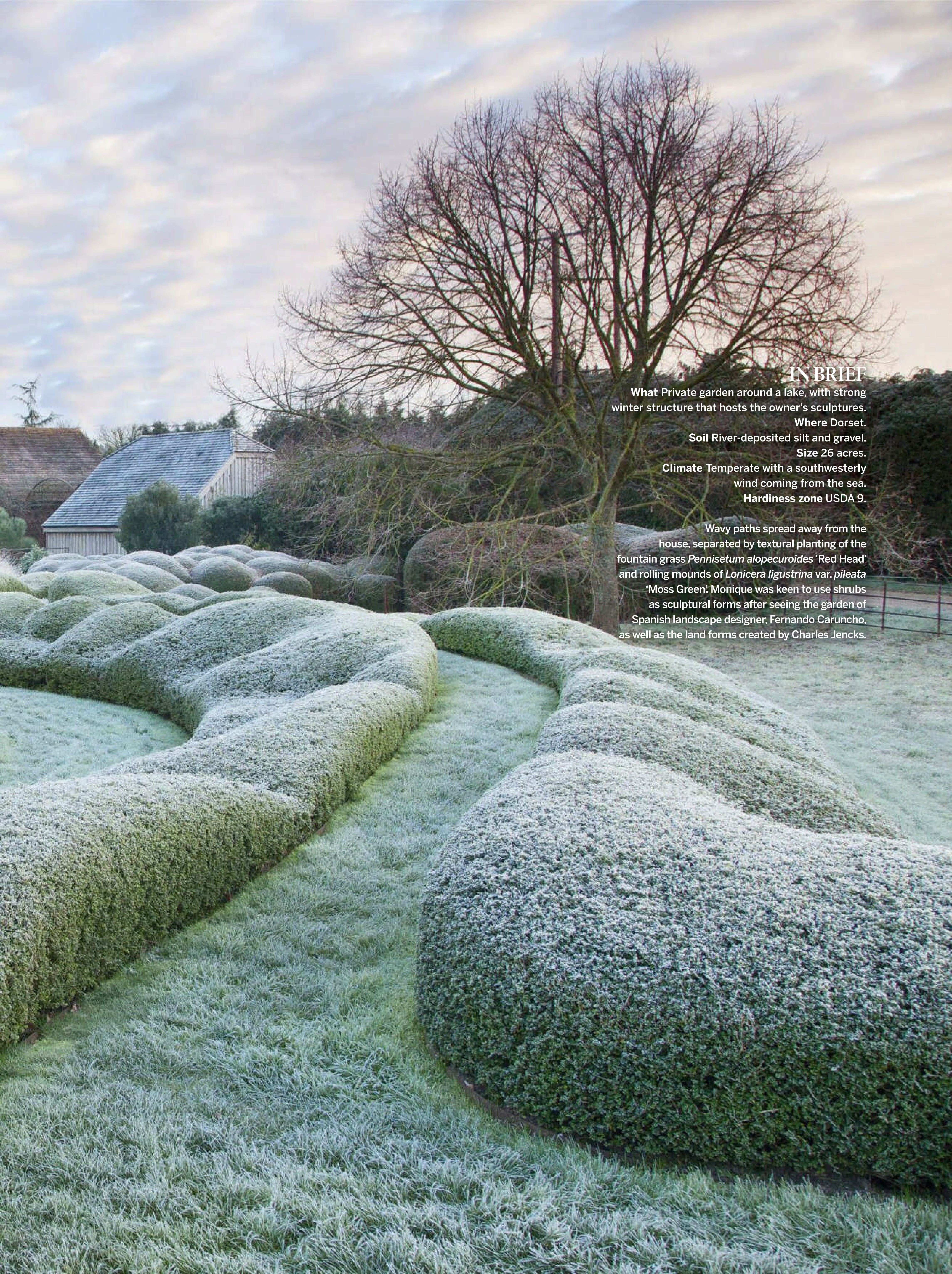
www.englishgardeningschool.co.uk
Email: info@englishgardeningschool.co.uk
Tel: 020 7352 4347

Long established as the leader in all design and gardening tuition and based at the unique and historic Chelsea Physic Garden

Sculpting nature

In her lakeside garden Monique Gudgeon has created a strongly structured garden to showcase her husband Simon's art

WORDS KENDRA WILSON PHOTOGRAPHS ANNAÏCK GUITTENY



IN BRIEF

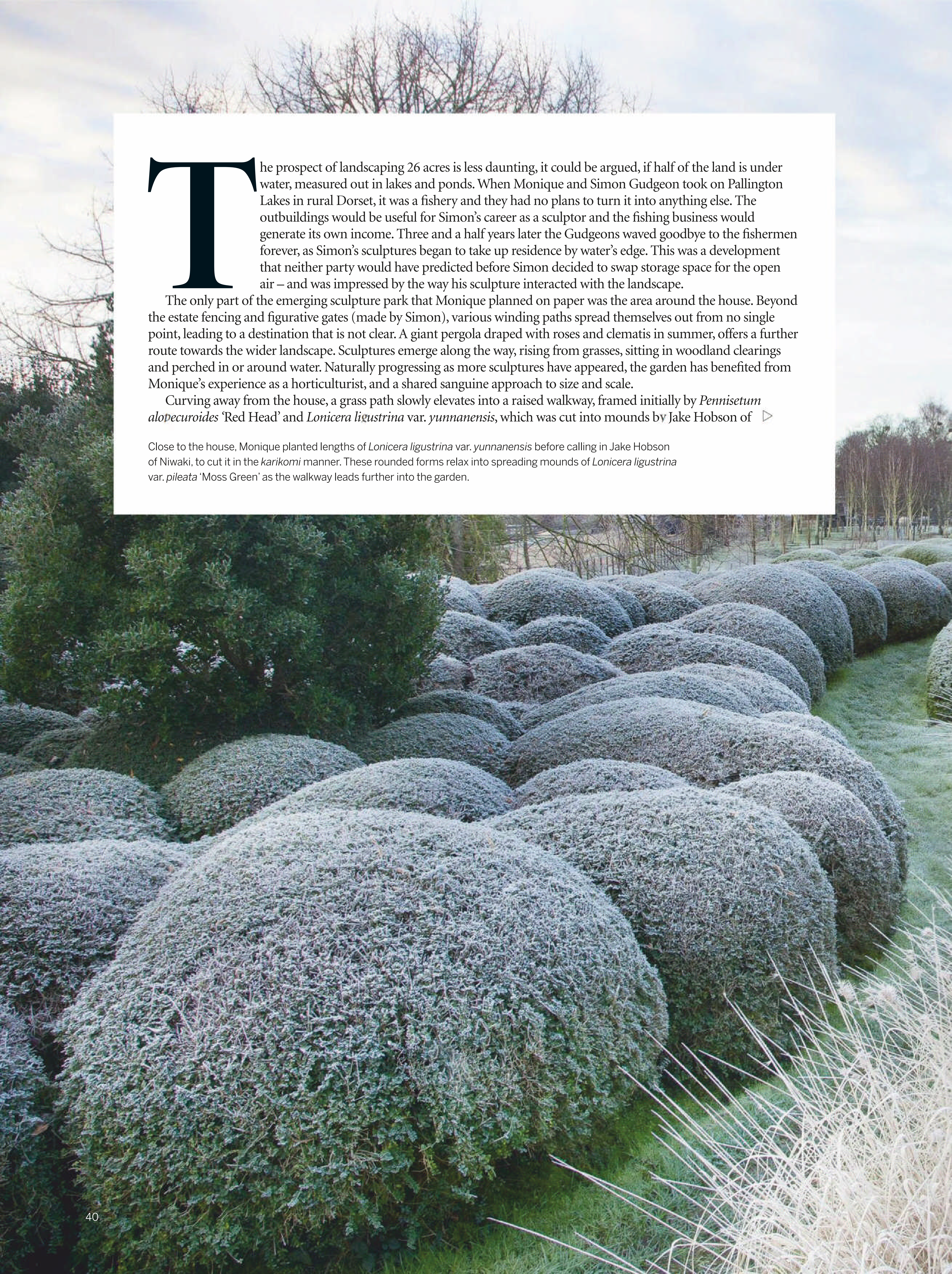
What Private garden around a lake, with strong winter structure that hosts the owner's sculptures.
Where Dorset.
Soil River-deposited silt and gravel.
Size 26 acres.
Climate Temperate with a southwesterly wind coming from the sea.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.

Wavy paths spread away from the house, separated by textural planting of the fountain grass *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Red Head' and rolling mounds of *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *pileata* 'Moss Green'. Monique was keen to use shrubs as sculptural forms after seeing the garden of Spanish landscape designer, Fernando Caruncho, as well as the land forms created by Charles Jencks.

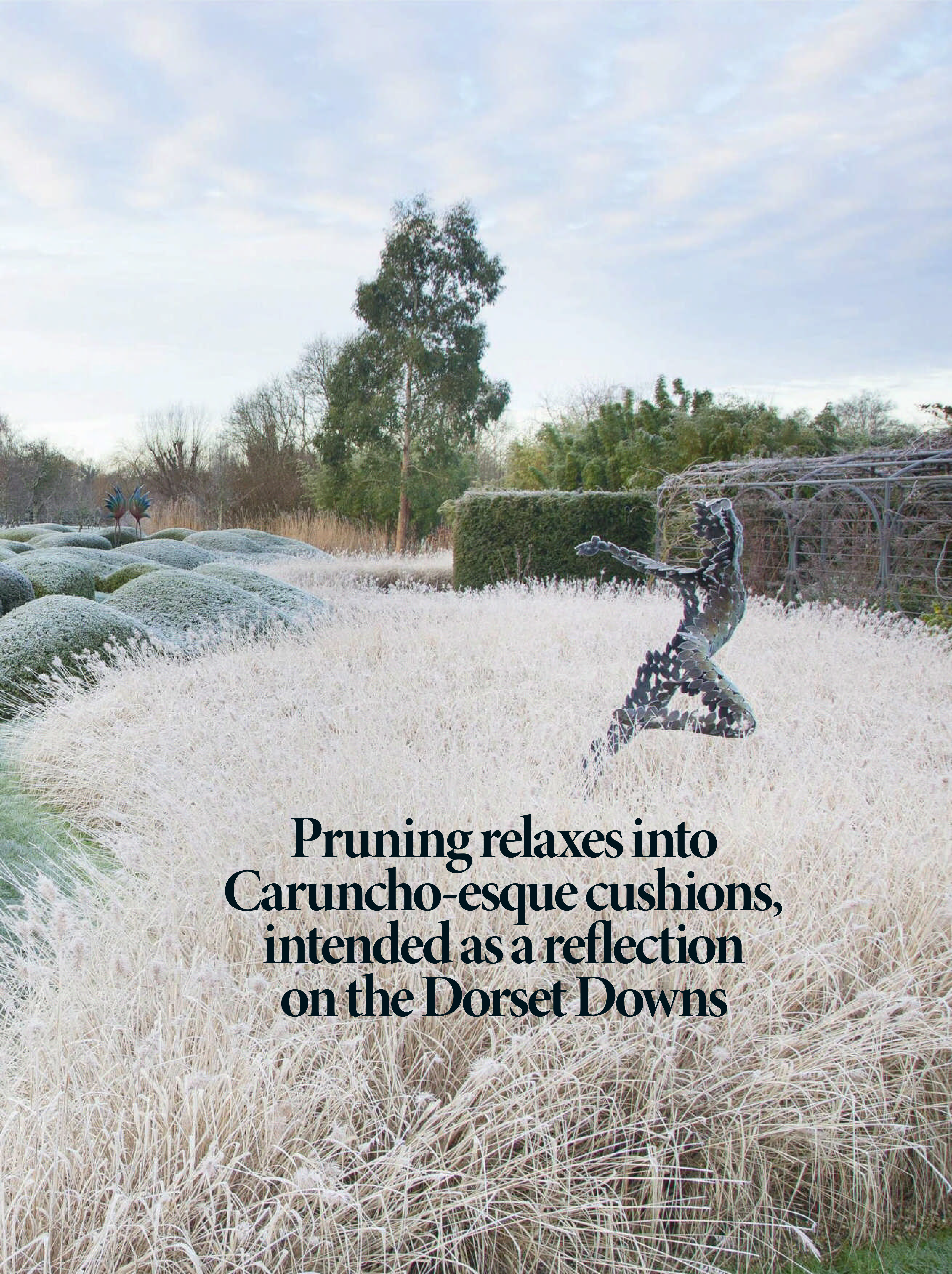
The prospect of landscaping 26 acres is less daunting, it could be argued, if half of the land is under water, measured out in lakes and ponds. When Monique and Simon Gudgeon took on Pallington Lakes in rural Dorset, it was a fishery and they had no plans to turn it into anything else. The outbuildings would be useful for Simon's career as a sculptor and the fishing business would generate its own income. Three and a half years later the Gudgeons waved goodbye to the fishermen forever, as Simon's sculptures began to take up residence by water's edge. This was a development that neither party would have predicted before Simon decided to swap storage space for the open air – and was impressed by the way his sculpture interacted with the landscape.

The only part of the emerging sculpture park that Monique planned on paper was the area around the house. Beyond the estate fencing and figurative gates (made by Simon), various winding paths spread themselves out from no single point, leading to a destination that is not clear. A giant pergola draped with roses and clematis in summer, offers a further route towards the wider landscape. Sculptures emerge along the way, rising from grasses, sitting in woodland clearings and perched in or around water. Naturally progressing as more sculptures have appeared, the garden has benefited from Monique's experience as a horticulturist, and a shared sanguine approach to size and scale.

Curving away from the house, a grass path slowly elevates into a raised walkway, framed initially by *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Red Head' and *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis*, which was cut into mounds by Jake Hobson of



Close to the house, Monique planted lengths of *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* before calling in Jake Hobson of Niwaki, to cut it in the *karikomi* manner. These rounded forms relax into spreading mounds of *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *pileata* 'Moss Green' as the walkway leads further into the garden.



Pruning relaxes into Caruncho-esque cushions, intended as a reflection on the Dorset Downs

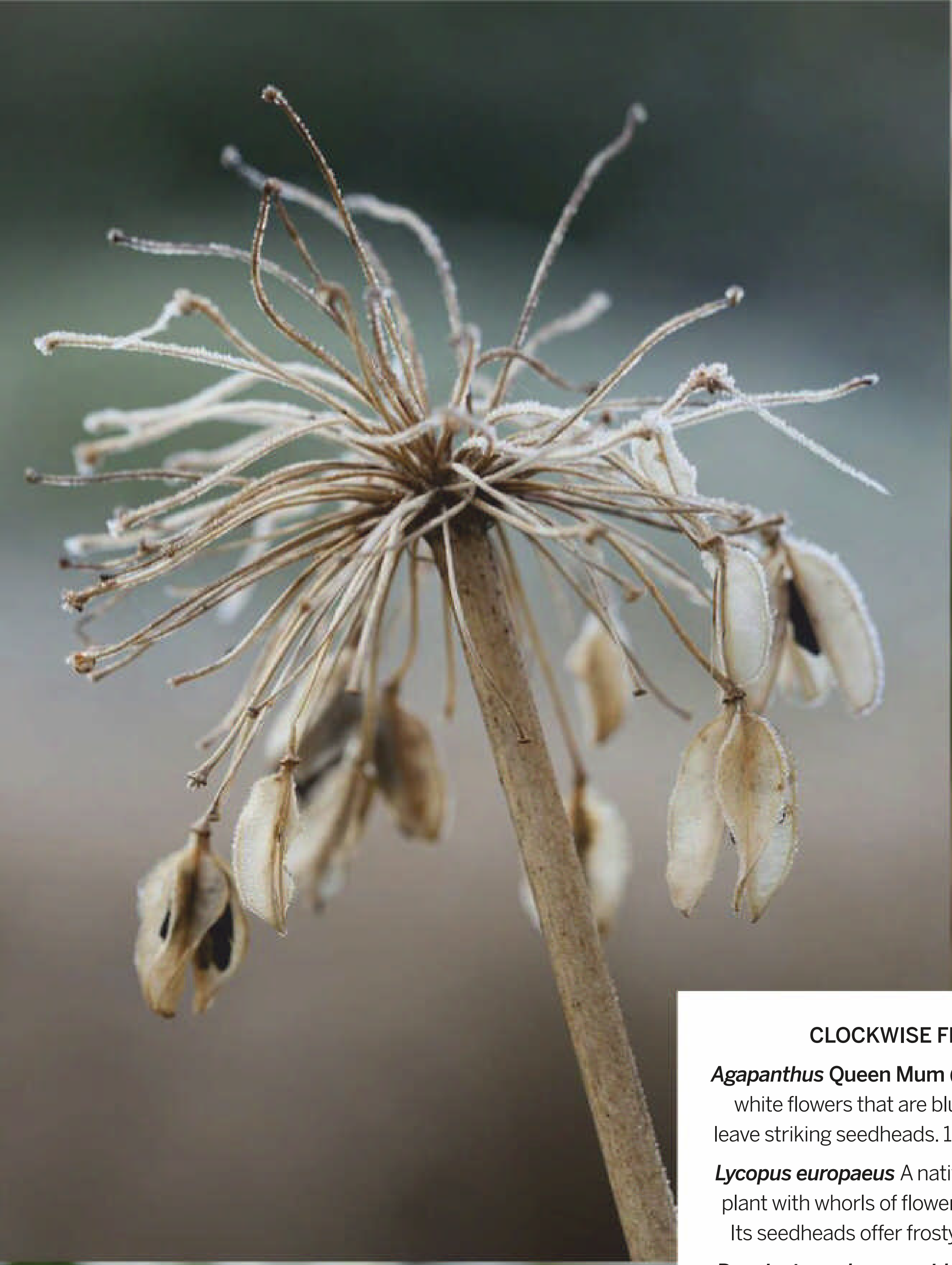
▷ Niwaki. Monique was impressed by the shaping of land at Charles Jencks's Garden of Cosmic Speculation in Scotland, and these ideas were further confirmed by a visit to the garden of Fernando Caruncho in Madrid. "It's my natural inclination to keep expanding," she says. "I wanted to try these sculptural forms, and this area and situation lent itself to that." At the end of the spiralling path, where *Lonicera ligustrina* var. *yunnanensis* gives way to *L. ligustrina* var. *pileata* 'Moss Green', the pruning relaxes into Caruncho-esque cushions, intended as a reflection on the Dorset Downs. Monique was further inspired by the *karikomi* way with shrubs from Japan: "It's about forming a landscape, using plants."

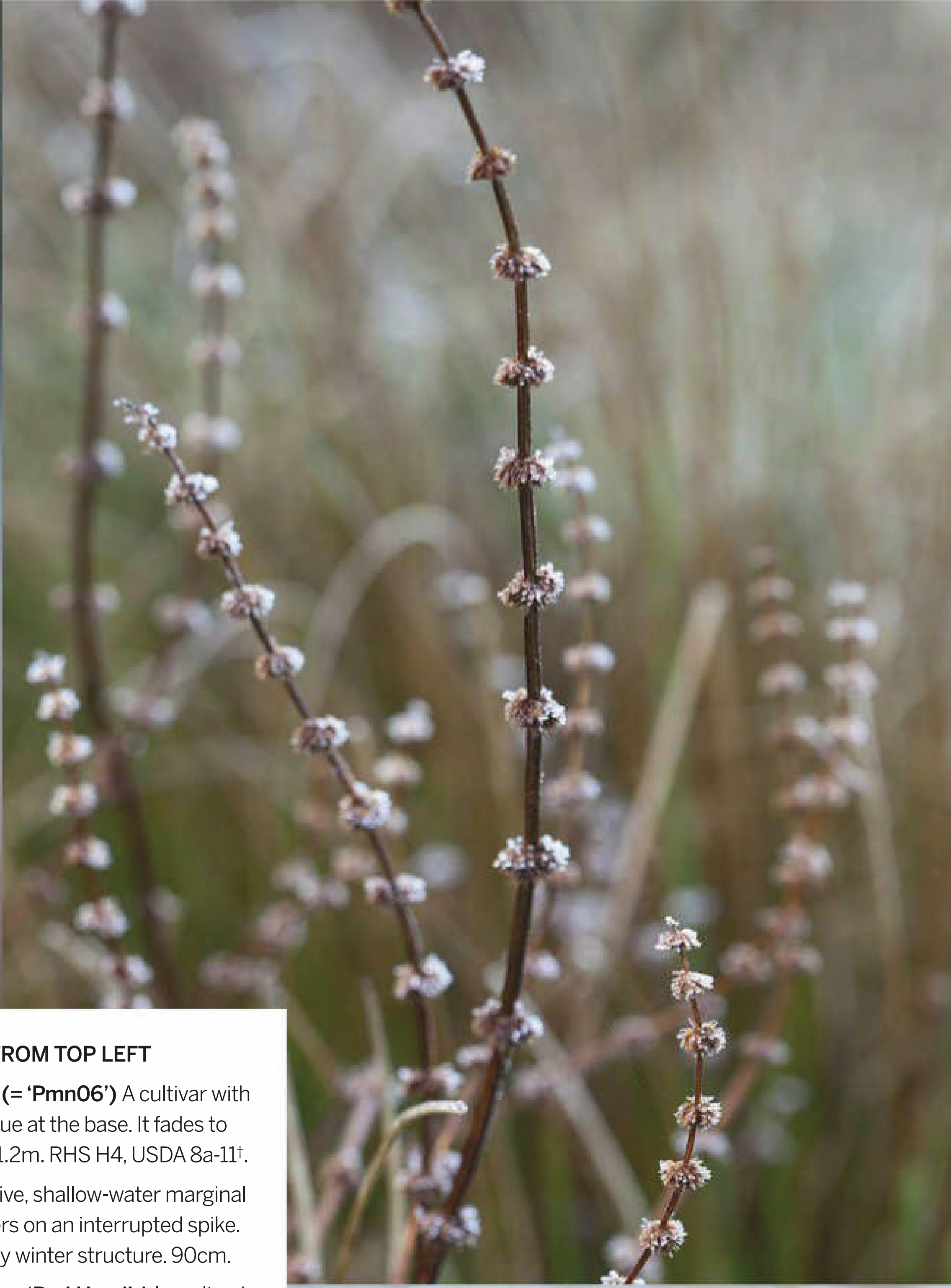
The drama of the planting creates an atmosphere where land art sits easily with art on the land. A willow tunnel makes a statuesque arc around a wildflower meadow, while its straight stems and pinnate leaves merge into those of bamboo, part of a collection of 500 plants brought from a previous garden. She cheerfully grows 20 types of bamboo, and about 20 different types of willow, six of which were already thriving in the watery landscape. Having cut her teeth as a gardener first in the show gardens of Agriframes, followed by more detailed horticulture at Architectural Plants, she now volunteers once a week at the Arboretum nursery at Kew Gardens. She is used to dealing with structure, both hard and soft, and her enthusiasm for knowledge and growing experience is particularly focussed on trees.

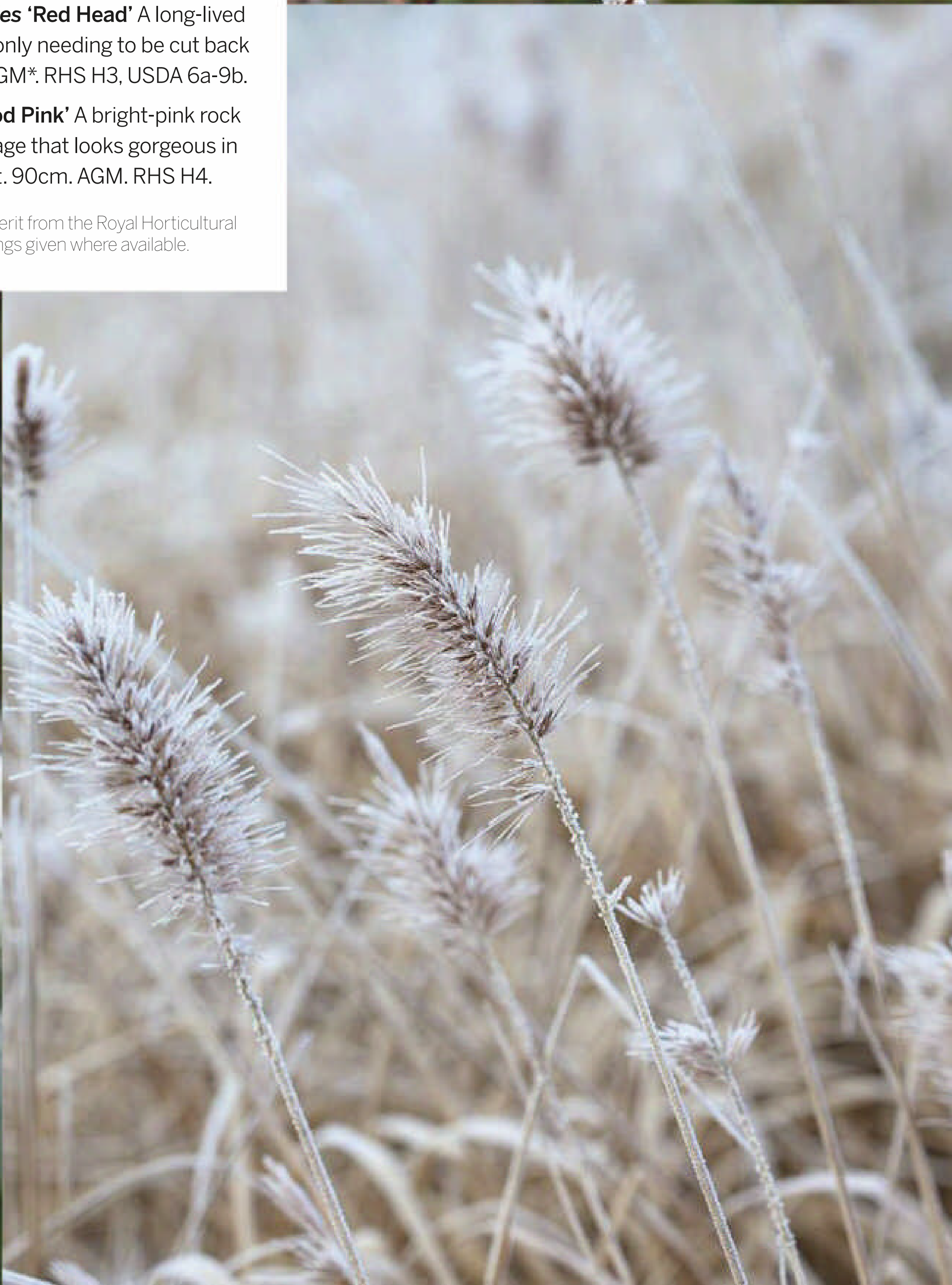
"I know I'm going to lose a lot of ash, so I'm looking at all sorts of trees that I can replace it with," says Monique, as we examine a Norway maple that she has planted close to an old, common ash specimen, which is showing the first ▷

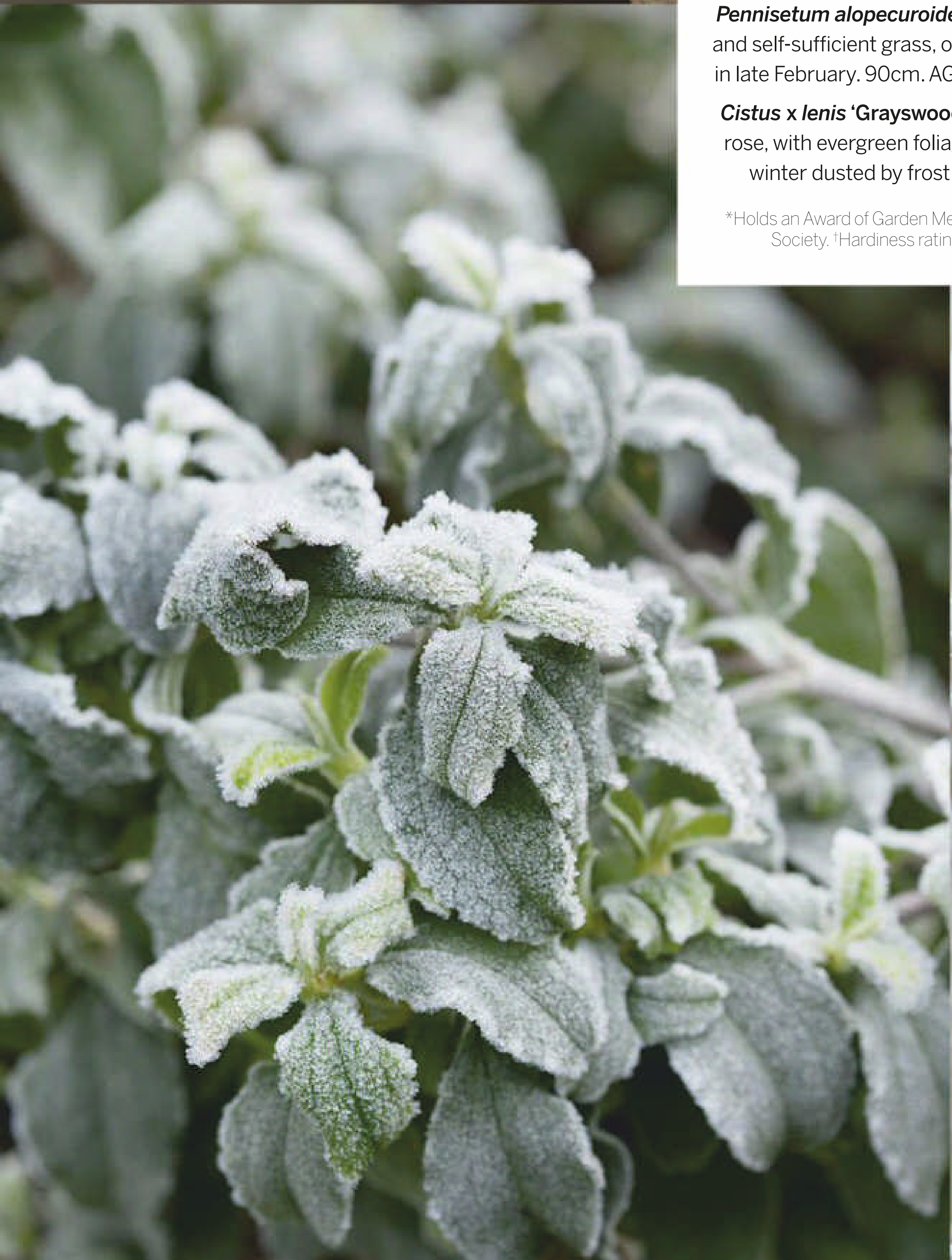
To continue turn to page 46

This image It takes around two weeks in February for Monique to cut back and weave in new growth of the willow (*Salix viminalis*) in her willow tunnel. Monique likes the character of its growth and finds the long process therapeutic. Cuttings from the tunnel also make pliable wands that are useful in the kitchen garden.









CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

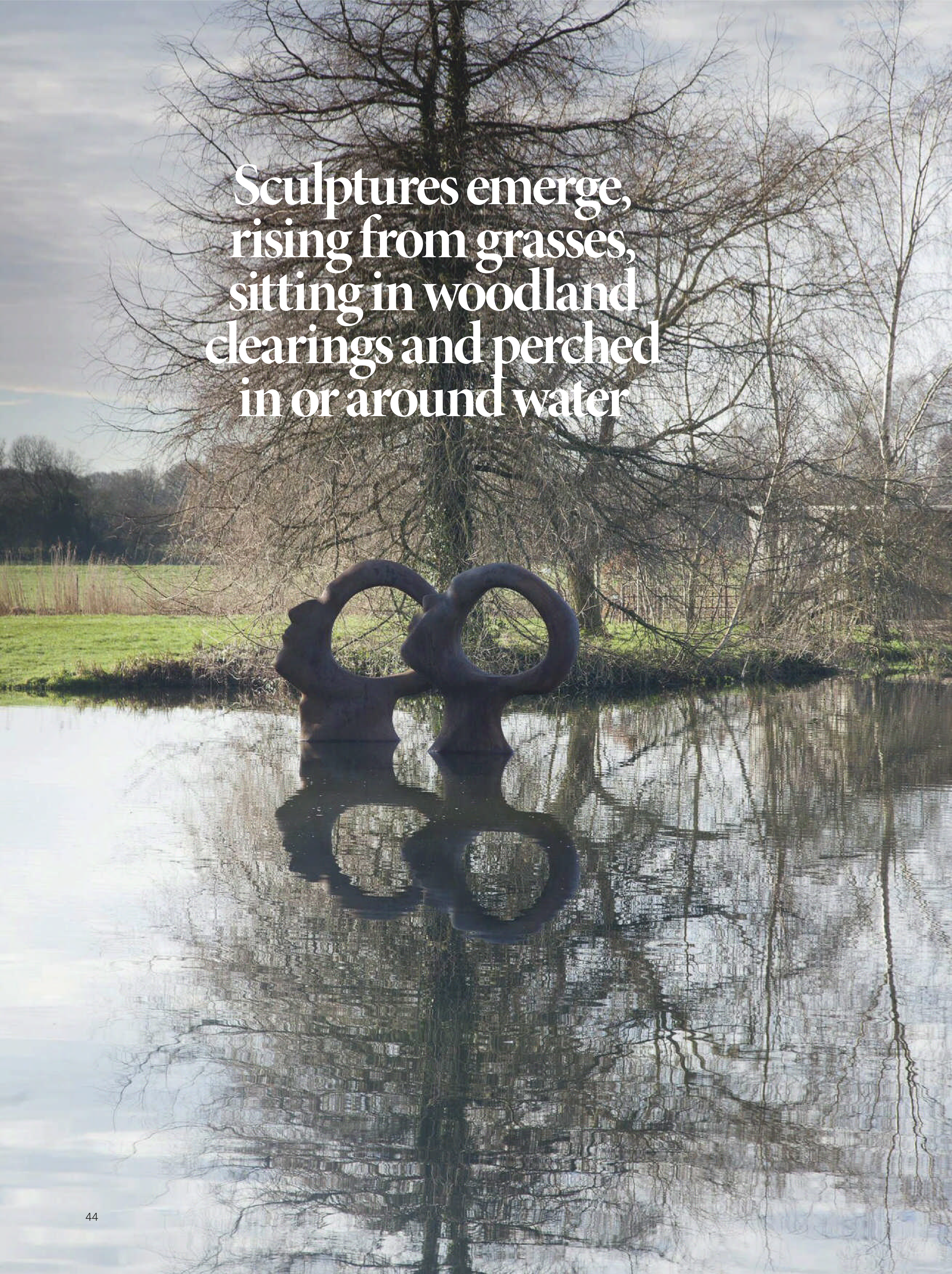
***Agapanthus* Queen Mum (= 'Pmn06')** A cultivar with white flowers that are blue at the base. It fades to leave striking seedheads. 1.2m. RHS H4, USDA 8a-11†.

Lycopus europaeus A native, shallow-water marginal plant with whorls of flowers on an interrupted spike. Its seedheads offer frosty winter structure. 90cm.

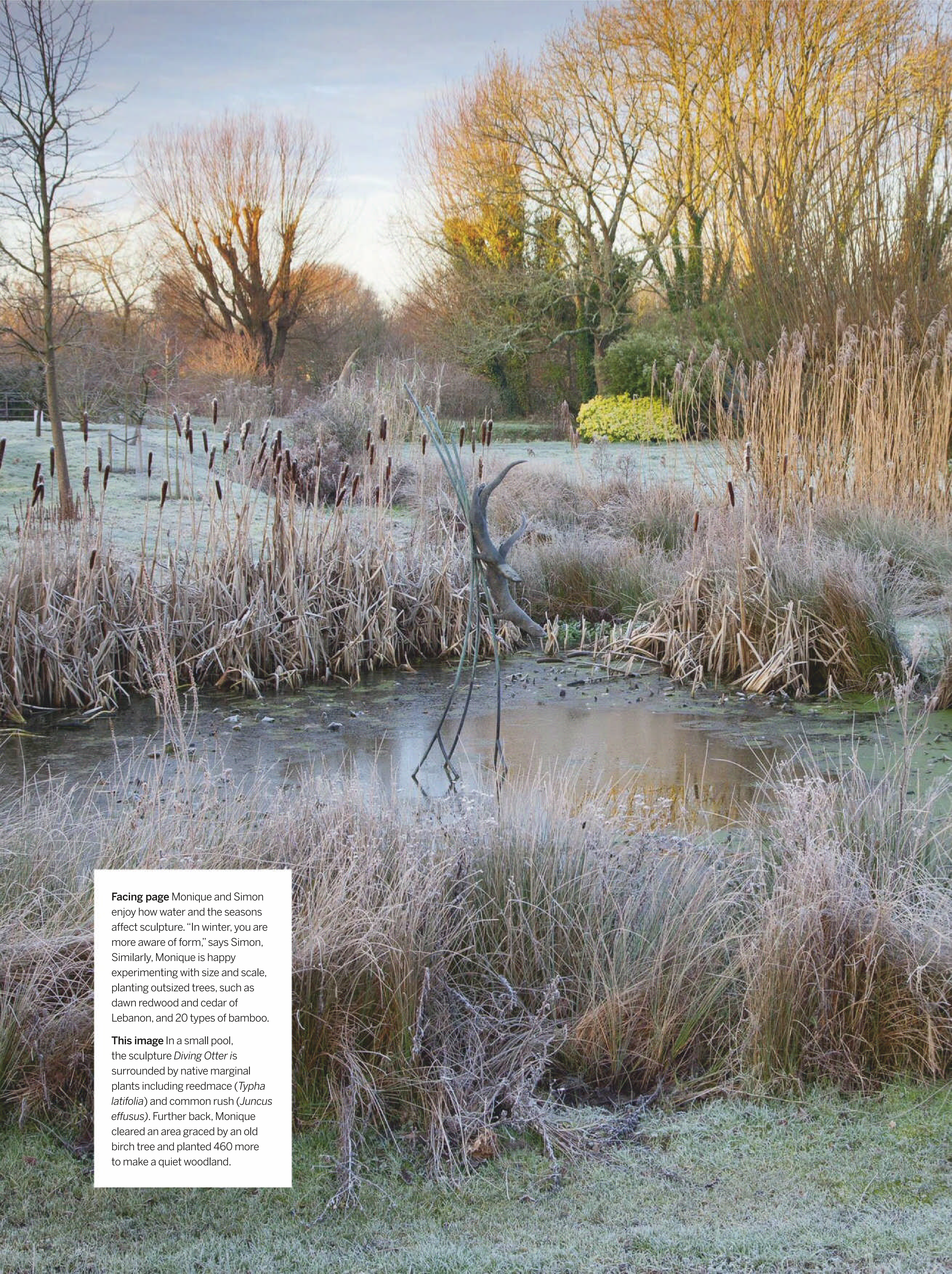
***Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Red Head'** A long-lived and self-sufficient grass, only needing to be cut back in late February. 90cm. AGM*. RHS H3, USDA 6a-9b.

***Cistus* x *lenis* 'Grayswood Pink'** A bright-pink rock rose, with evergreen foliage that looks gorgeous in winter dusted by frost. 90cm. AGM. RHS H4.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.



Sculptures emerge, rising from grasses, sitting in woodland clearings and perched in or around water



Facing page Monique and Simon enjoy how water and the seasons affect sculpture. "In winter, you are more aware of form," says Simon, Similarly, Monique is happy experimenting with size and scale, planting outsized trees, such as dawn redwood and cedar of Lebanon, and 20 types of bamboo.

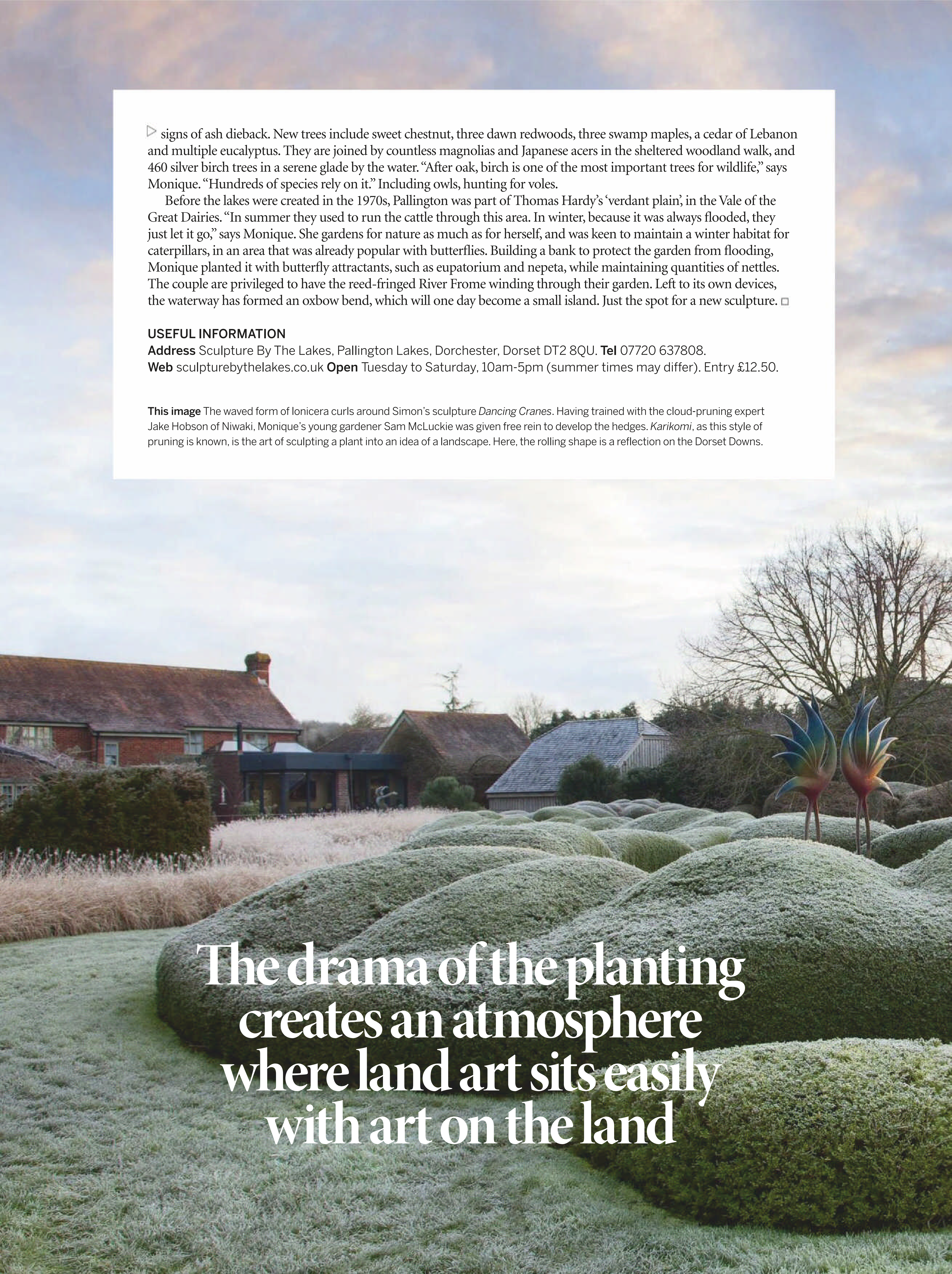
This image In a small pool, the sculpture *Diving Otter* is surrounded by native marginal plants including reedmace (*Typha latifolia*) and common rush (*Juncus effusus)*. Further back, Monique cleared an area graced by an old birch tree and planted 460 more to make a quiet woodland.

▷ signs of ash dieback. New trees include sweet chestnut, three dawn redwoods, three swamp maples, a cedar of Lebanon and multiple eucalyptus. They are joined by countless magnolias and Japanese acers in the sheltered woodland walk, and 460 silver birch trees in a serene glade by the water. "After oak, birch is one of the most important trees for wildlife," says Monique. "Hundreds of species rely on it." Including owls, hunting for voles.

Before the lakes were created in the 1970s, Pallington was part of Thomas Hardy's 'verdant plain', in the Vale of the Great Dairies. "In summer they used to run the cattle through this area. In winter, because it was always flooded, they just let it go," says Monique. She gardens for nature as much as for herself, and was keen to maintain a winter habitat for caterpillars, in an area that was already popular with butterflies. Building a bank to protect the garden from flooding, Monique planted it with butterfly attractants, such as eupatorium and nepeta, while maintaining quantities of nettles. The couple are privileged to have the reed-fringed River Frome winding through their garden. Left to its own devices, the waterway has formed an oxbow bend, which will one day become a small island. Just the spot for a new sculpture. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Sculpture By The Lakes, Pallington Lakes, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 8QU. **Tel** 07720 637808.
Web sculpturebythelakes.co.uk **Open** Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-5pm (summer times may differ). Entry £12.50.



This image The waved form of lonicera curls around Simon's sculpture *Dancing Cranes*. Having trained with the cloud-pruning expert Jake Hobson of Niwaki, Monique's young gardener Sam McLuckie was given free rein to develop the hedges. *Karikomi*, as this style of pruning is known, is the art of sculpting a plant into an idea of a landscape. Here, the rolling shape is a reflection on the Dorset Downs.

The drama of the planting creates an atmosphere where land art sits easily with art on the land

Christmas at home

Bring some Yuletide cheer to your home by embracing time-honoured traditions of lighting candles, gifting presents and decorating your home with greenery from the garden, woods and hedgerows

WORDS AND STYLING **JACKY MILLS** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**

A FORAGED AFFAIR

Tools and materials

Secateurs, natural twine or stub wire, a woven grape vine or willow base, glycerine, moss, *Vitis coignetiae* (crimson glory vine), seedheads of *Clematis vitalba* (old man's beard), mix of branches – cypress, *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (wellingtonia), *Pinus sylvestris* (Scot's pine), *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas fir), *Cedrus atlantica* Glauca Group (blue cedar), *Larix decidua* (larch), *Vaccinium myrtillus* (bilberry), *Prunus spinosa* (blackthorn) and *Berberis thunbergii* f. *atropurpurea* (barberry) – in lengths from 15-30cm, hemp rope or ribbon for hanging.

To make

The muted tones and contrasting textures of this large, naturalistic wreath add festive drama to a doorway. The base is made from lengthy trimmings of a wall-trained *Vitis coignetiae*. The canes are cut back to one or two buds from the old framework and woven into a loose ring while still fresh and pliable. Long stems of wild bramble, stripped of their unforgiving thorns, would make an equally robust base.

The open twiggy structure makes it easy to thread decorative branches through the gaps, minimising the need for wiring. I used a mix of deciduous and evergreen branches, collecting wind-damaged finds off woodland floors, sprigs from our boundary hedges and a few offerings from generous friends.

Starting with a selection of conifers arranged around the lower portion, a beautiful central cluster of fresh, green cones provides a focal point. Gently curving branches of larch and cedar add movement, counterbalancing the gnarly, lichen-encrusted sprigs of blackthorn and sprays of *Vaccinium myrtillus*. The asymmetrical nature of the wreath was amplified using angled branches of dusky red barberry, pre-soaked for a fortnight in a solution of glycerine diluted in two parts warm water to preserve the leaves. Similarly treated *Clematis vitalba* seedheads were dotted through the foliage with tufts of lawn moss. It was finished with sprigs of mistletoe and hung with a length of hemp cord.

THE GIFT OF GIVING

Plant-dyed silk ribbons from Northern Hands, see page 108 for stockists.

Tools and materials

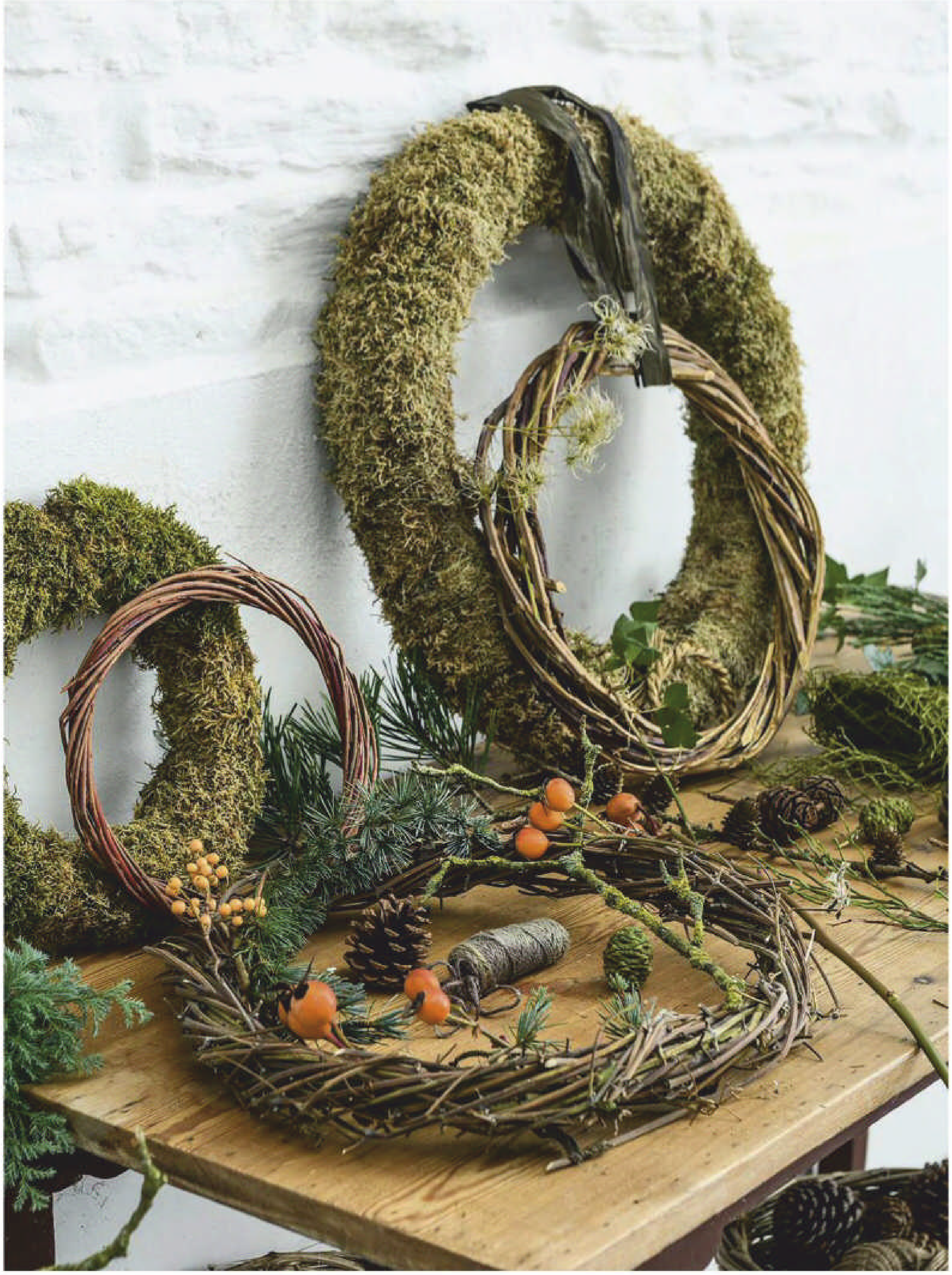
Glue gun, glue, glycerine, double-sided sticky tape, scissors, embroidery threads or natural twine, luggage tags, a selection of wrapping papers – brown parcel or hand-made – a choice of fabrics, such as linen, velvet and silk, in a range of festive colours, silk and hessian ribbons, cones, seedheads, nuts for decorating, a range of seasonal foliage, including *Larix decidua* (larch) with cones attached, *Alnus glutinosa* (alder) with catkins, *Chamaecyparis pisifera* (false cypress), pine, rose hips and seedheads of *Clematis vitalba* (old man's beard).

To make

Combining fabric wrap with paper, ribbons and festive foliage can be very effective and all elements can be reused or composted. For a natural look use unbleached, hessian ribbon or combine it with silk ribbons hand-dyed using plant extracts. The sage green hue was produced using dry ash leaves, the neutral hues from fresh and dried eucalyptus leaves and a pewter grey from fresh *Rubus* leaves.

The delicate tracery of ferns on the silk wrap was created through a process known as eco-printing. The cut fronds are dipped in an iron solution and sprayed with diluted vinegar before laying directly on to the silk, which is then rolled up in an iron blanket and steamed for several hours.

For the final embellishment of a mini corsage, choose material that will last without wilting. Many conifers are ideal as long as they don't exude sap after cutting. Knobbly larch twigs replete with cones and the dusky mauve of alder catkins are perfect contenders. Strip rose hip stems of thorns and remove any jagged edges. The silky, tessellated seedheads of old man's beard quickly turn into fluffy snowballs after picking but can be made to last by placing the cut stems in a 2:1 water to glycerine mix for a few days. Use a glue gun to attach a multitude of cones, eucalyptus seedheads, nuts, star anise, cinnamon sticks or dried grapefruit slices, which also smell delicious. Finally, attach luggage tags, using embroidery silks in contrasting hues, as gift tags.



THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

Tools and materials

Moss ring, secateurs, stub wire or natural twine, a selection of evergreens – cypress, *Pinus sylvestris* (Scot's pine), *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (wellingtonia), *Cedrus atlantica* Glauca Group (blue cedar), and bare branches of *Larix decidua* (larch), *Vaccinium myrtillus* (bilberry) and *Magnolia* x *soulangeana* – cut to varying lengths (15-25cm), a selection of orange rose hips and *Ilex verticillata* (winterberry) berries, ribbon for hanging.

To make

To create this evergreen wreath you can either use a moss ring with a metal template, available to buy ready made in various sizes, or make your own from tightly wrapped straw, covered in a layer of moss. Keep one side flat to sit flush against the door, mounding up the top side to attach your trimmings.

There is an abundance of evergreen foliage to choose from at this time of year. I've focused on conifers, layered with the naked, curving boughs of larch and mossy antler-esque branches of *Magnolia* x *soulangeana*. Add a scattering of voluptuous orange rose hips and *Ilex verticillata* berries, but *Pyracantha* would also work, interspersed with the metallic blue berries of *Viburnum tinus*.

To build, attach varying lengths of the chosen foliage to the base in groups of three across the wreath with twine or stub wire as you work around the circle in one direction. If using a mix of evergreens it can be easier to make up a number of individual bundles that can be laid out on the base first and then attached when you're happy with your design.

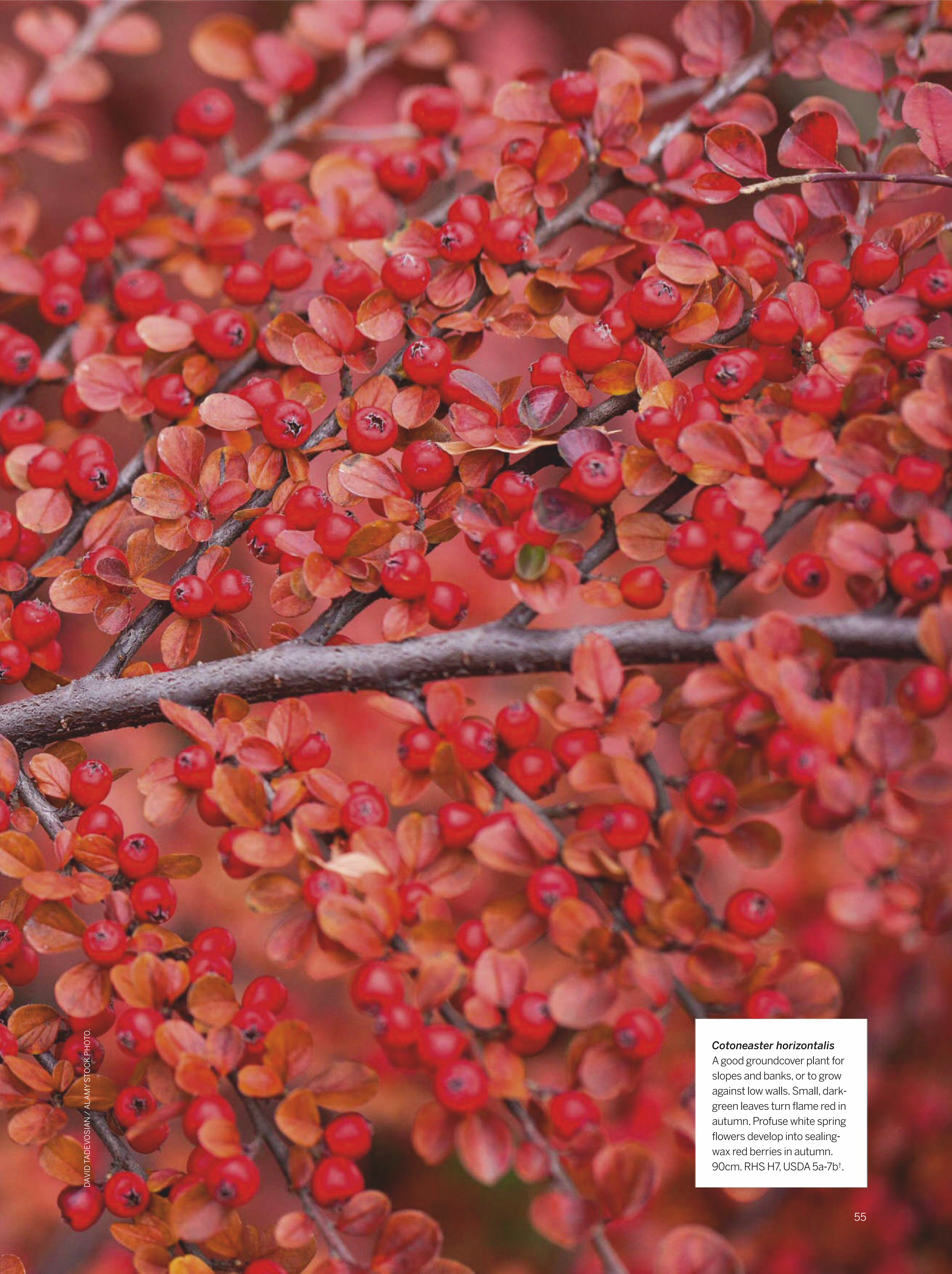
Finally, suspend the wreath with a ribbon of your choice and enjoy the festivities.

For an extra Christmas project from Jacky Mills, and for more Christmas decoration ideas, head to **gardensillustrated.com/christmas**

COTONEASTER

These versatile and low-maintenance shrubs combine easily with perennials and grasses and offer richly coloured berries through autumn and winter

WORDS ANDY McINDOE



Cotoneaster horizontalis
A good groundcover plant for slopes and banks, or to grow against low walls. Small, dark-green leaves turn flame red in autumn. Profuse white spring flowers develop into sealing-wax red berries in autumn. 90cm. RHS H7, USDA 5a-7b†.

DAVID TADEVOSIAN / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.

Half a century ago *Cotoneaster horizontalis*, with its fan-like sprays of stiff herringbone branches and shining red berries, graced the low wall beneath the bay window at the front of our house – as it did in most of the gardens along the road. For no effort it reliably produced its bright autumn display as the leaves turned red before falling. I remember it buzzing with bees in May and its somewhat surreal silhouette in winter. No one considered that it was an excellent source of food for wildlife, or its ability to seed. Seedlings were given by neighbours or otherwise acquired and the palette of species was limited.

Away from the suburbs, among professional horticulturists, especially shrub authorities such as Sir Harold Hillier, cotoneasters were and are regarded as one of the most important groups of shrubs. With 400 species to choose from, they offer a diversity of habit and evergreen or deciduous subjects. Species have been selected, hybridised and named.

As gardens have evolved, good groundcover plants have come to the fore and cotoneasters are an obvious choice. The bearberry cotoneaster, *Cotoneaster dammeri*, is a modest little plant. But once established, the low-creeping stems and small, dark-green leaves efficiently smother weeds and cover the soil beneath trees and larger shrubs; it will flow gracefully over low walls and on slopes and banks with white flowers in spring and scarlet berries in autumn.

Other low-growing cotoneasters, such as *Cotoneaster salicifolius* ‘Gnom’ and *Cotoneaster procumbens* ‘Queen of Carpets’, are less well known, but valued by those of who grow them. In my own garden these reliable groundcover subjects cope with the tough growing conditions experienced in recent years – both in terms of temperature and rainfall extremes. Their evergreen foliage looks good throughout the year and the colourful berries last well into winter.

At the other end of the scale, the large-growing cotoneasters make excellent evergreen trees. *Cotoneaster* ‘Cornubia’ is one of the finest with broad, spreading branches and dark-green leaves. In spring it offers loose clusters of white flowers and is a magnificent sight in autumn when some of its semi-evergreen leaves turn gold and begin to fall, and large bunches of deep-scarlet berries provide a feast for wild birds.

Most cotoneaster species are bushy shrubs that grow in scrub or on the edge of temperate woodlands. Franchet’s cotoneaster *Cotoneaster franchetii* falls into this category and is a good example of the versatility of these plants. It grows as an airy shrub with ascending, arching branches and small, well-spaced leaves. It works well in an evergreen mixed planting or as a free-standing transitional shrub. You can use it to lighten heavy evergreens, such as laurels and mahonias, or you can use it to create an excellent backdrop to shrub roses and perennials. It can be trimmed as a hedge or it can be trained against a wall offering flowers and fruits, and it even works well in naturalistic planting schemes.

As mixed planting schemes become more popular, shrubs that combine easily with perennials and grasses become more important. The naturalistic habit of the shrubby cotoneasters makes them an ideal choice. At their best in autumn and winter, they help to maintain the effect when herbaceous partners take a rest.

Unlike many of the shrubs that are grown for their flowers cotoneasters do not need regular pruning and are undemanding when it comes to feeding and regular care – making them a worthwhile, low-maintenance option within a mixed planting.

Cotoneasters offer many of the qualities I look for most in a garden plant: they are reliable subjects that have more than one season of interest, they are plants that can cope with the extremes of weather, and they are wildlife friendly, offering shelter to birds and insects, as well as nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinators, and food for wild birds in autumn and winter. Though they may be sometimes overlooked, they are worth seeking out. ❑

- Author Andy McIndoe is a writer, broadcaster and horticulturist. His recommendations for the best cotoneasters can be found over the next five pages.

PLANT PROFILE

What Evergreen and deciduous shrubs of the rose family (Rosaceae), closely related to *Photinia*, *Pyracantha*, *Sorbus* and *Crataegus* (hawthorn).

Origins Around 400 species are spread across northern temperate regions including Europe, North Africa, southwest China and the Himalayas. The species have hybridised to produce many cultivars grown in gardens.

Season Small, single, white or pinkish flowers, attractive to pollinators in spring, followed by orange or red berries; occasionally yellow or pink in the case of some garden hybrids.

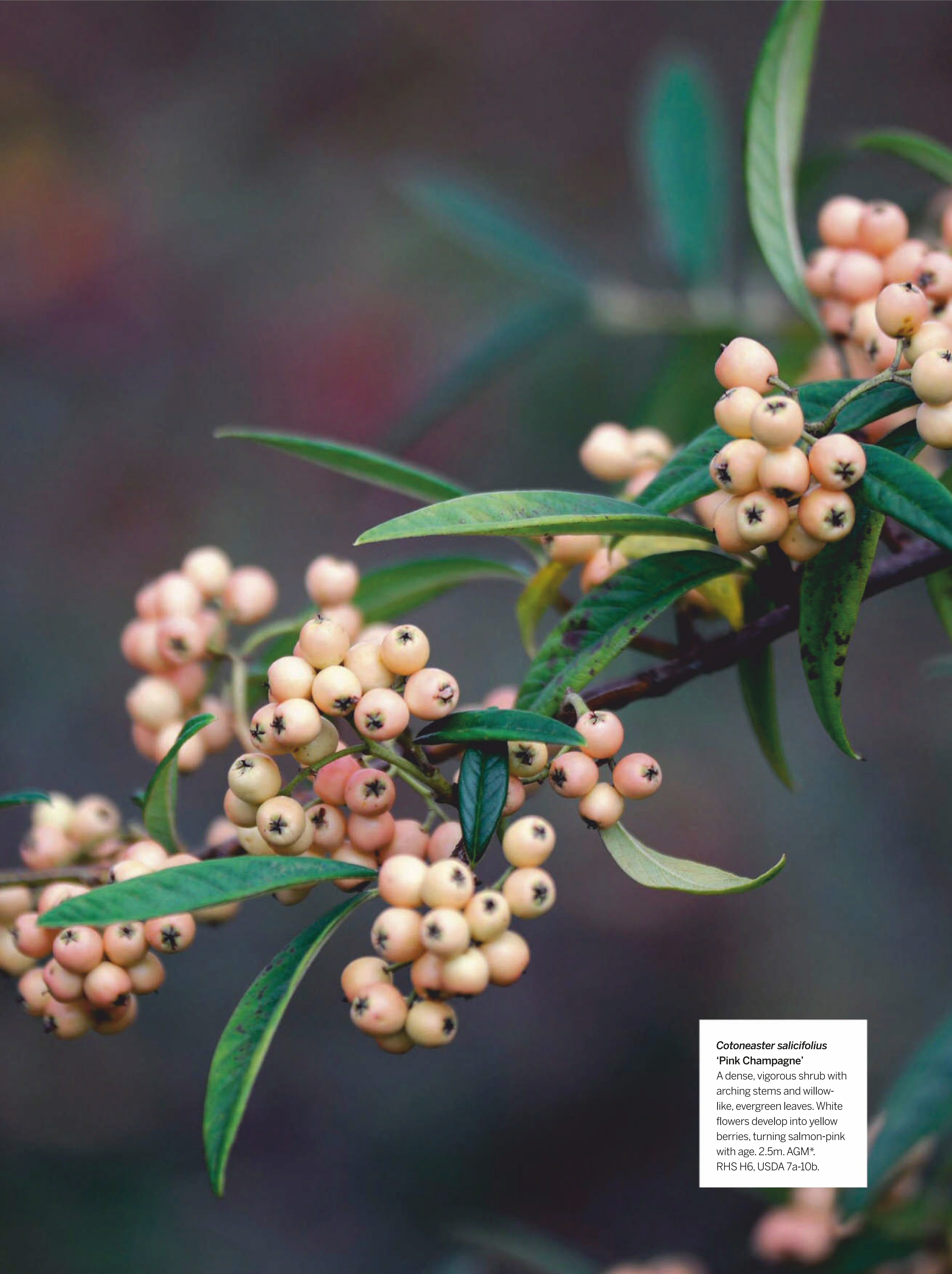
Size Species and hybrids vary in size from creeping groundcover shrubs, originating from alpine regions, to small trees that grow to several metres in height and spread. Most are bushy shrubs reaching two or three metres.

Conditions Tolerant and versatile shrubs that thrive on most soils including chalk and clay. Most grow quickly and are valuable for hedges.

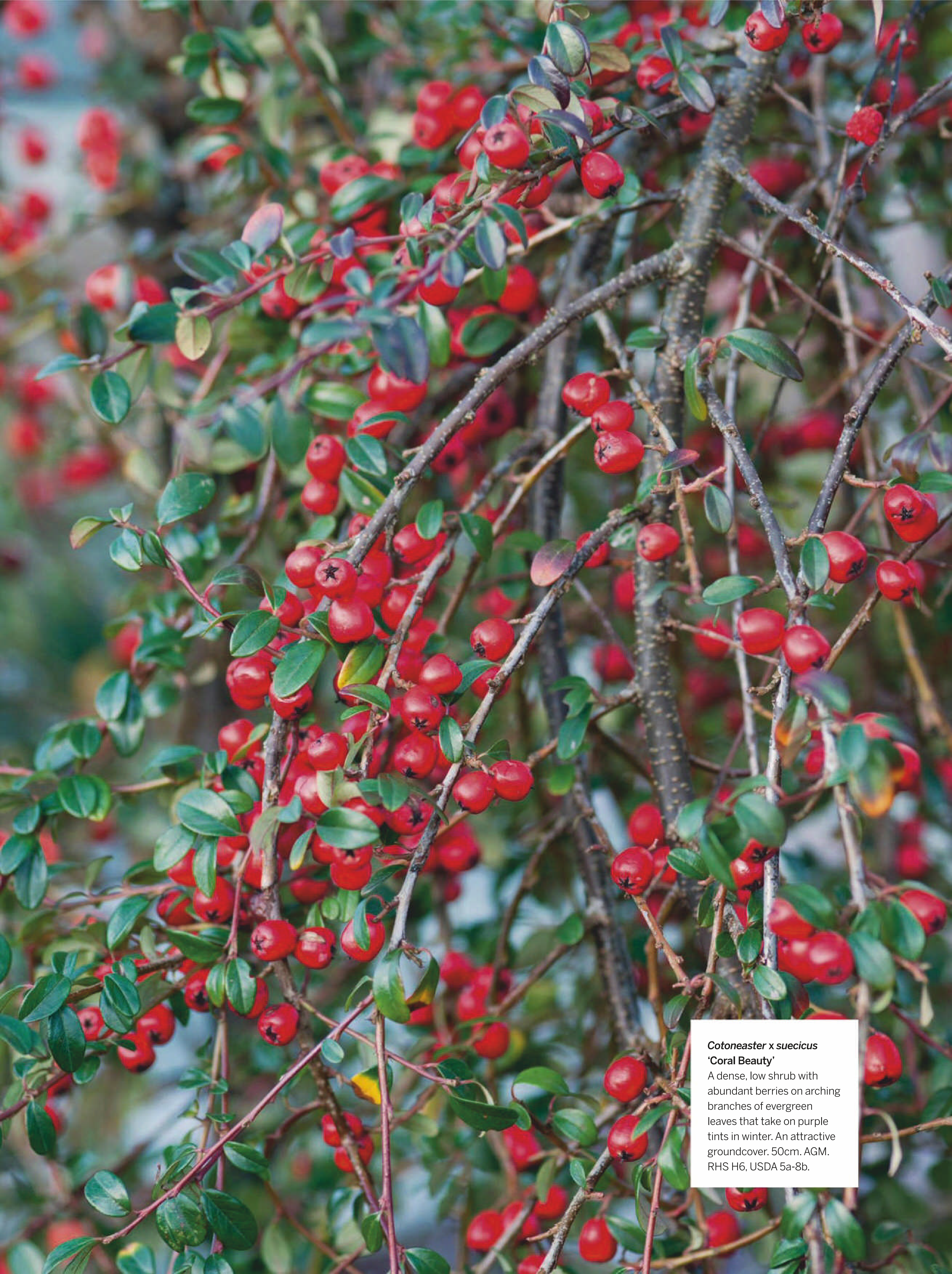
Hardiness Most are hardy throughout the UK even in cold winters. Hardiness ratings vary from RHS H6 to RHS H7, and are suitable for gardens in USDA zones 4a to 10b.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.

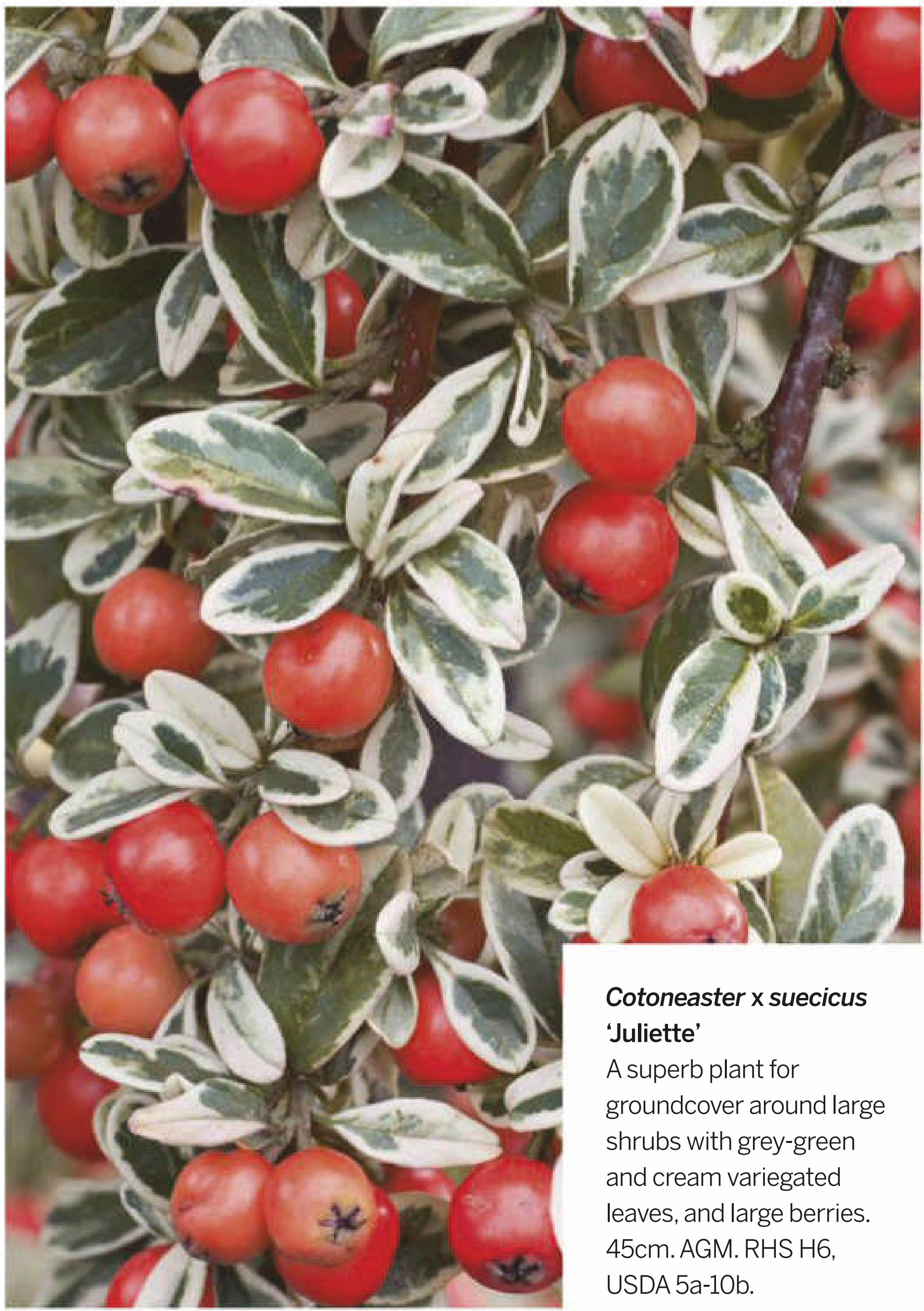
RM FLORAL / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.

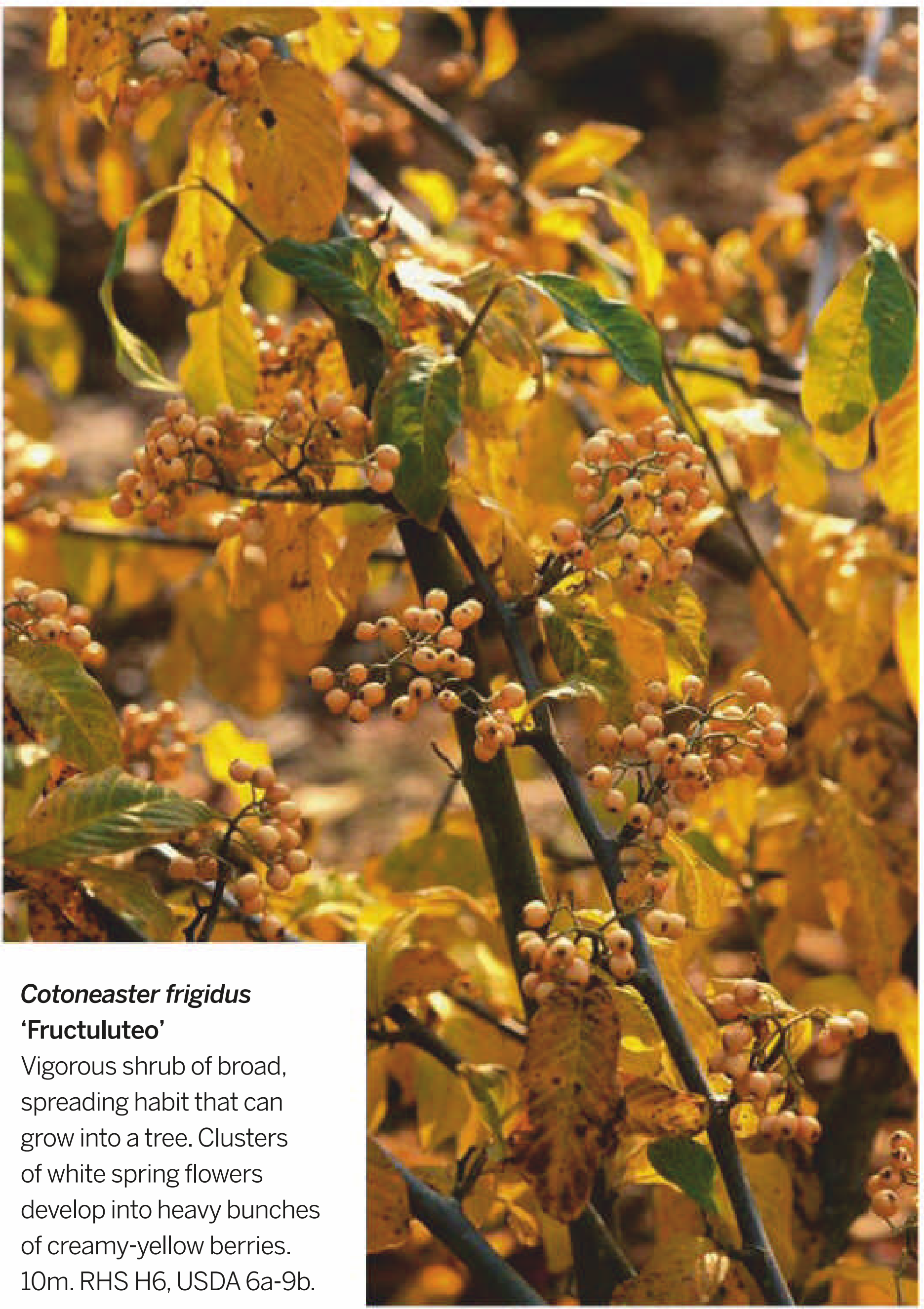


Cotoneaster salicifolius
'Pink Champagne'
A dense, vigorous shrub with arching stems and willow-like, evergreen leaves. White flowers develop into yellow berries, turning salmon-pink with age. 2.5m. AGM*. RHS H6, USDA 7a-10b.



Cotoneaster* x *suecicus
'Coral Beauty'
A dense, low shrub with abundant berries on arching branches of evergreen leaves that take on purple tints in winter. An attractive groundcover. 50cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b.



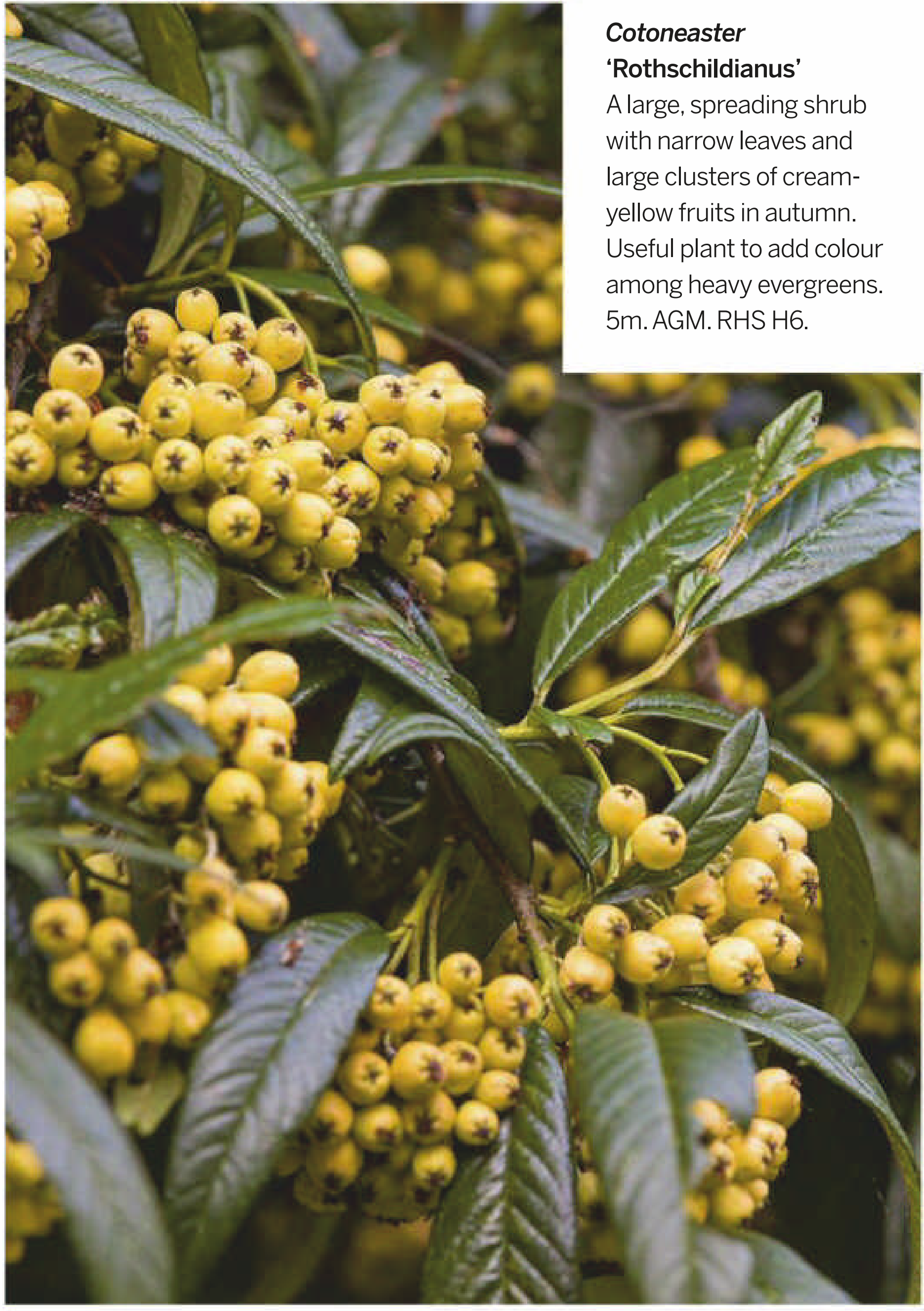


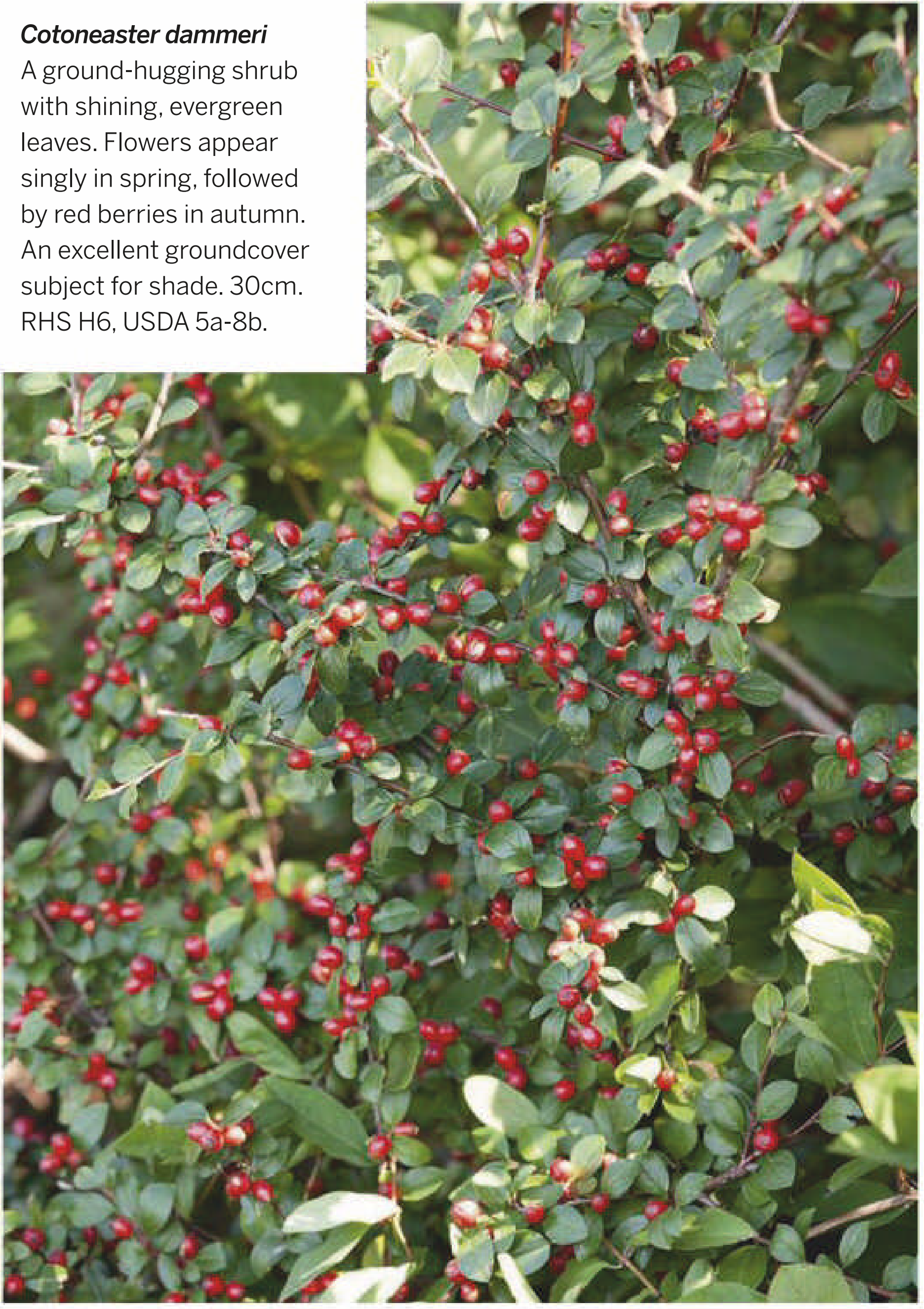
***Cotoneaster* x *suecicus* 'Juliette'**
A superb plant for groundcover around large shrubs with grey-green and cream variegated leaves, and large berries. 45cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 5a-10b.

***Cotoneaster* 'Rothschildianus'**
A large, spreading shrub with narrow leaves and large clusters of cream-yellow fruits in autumn. Useful plant to add colour among heavy evergreens. 5m. AGM. RHS H6.

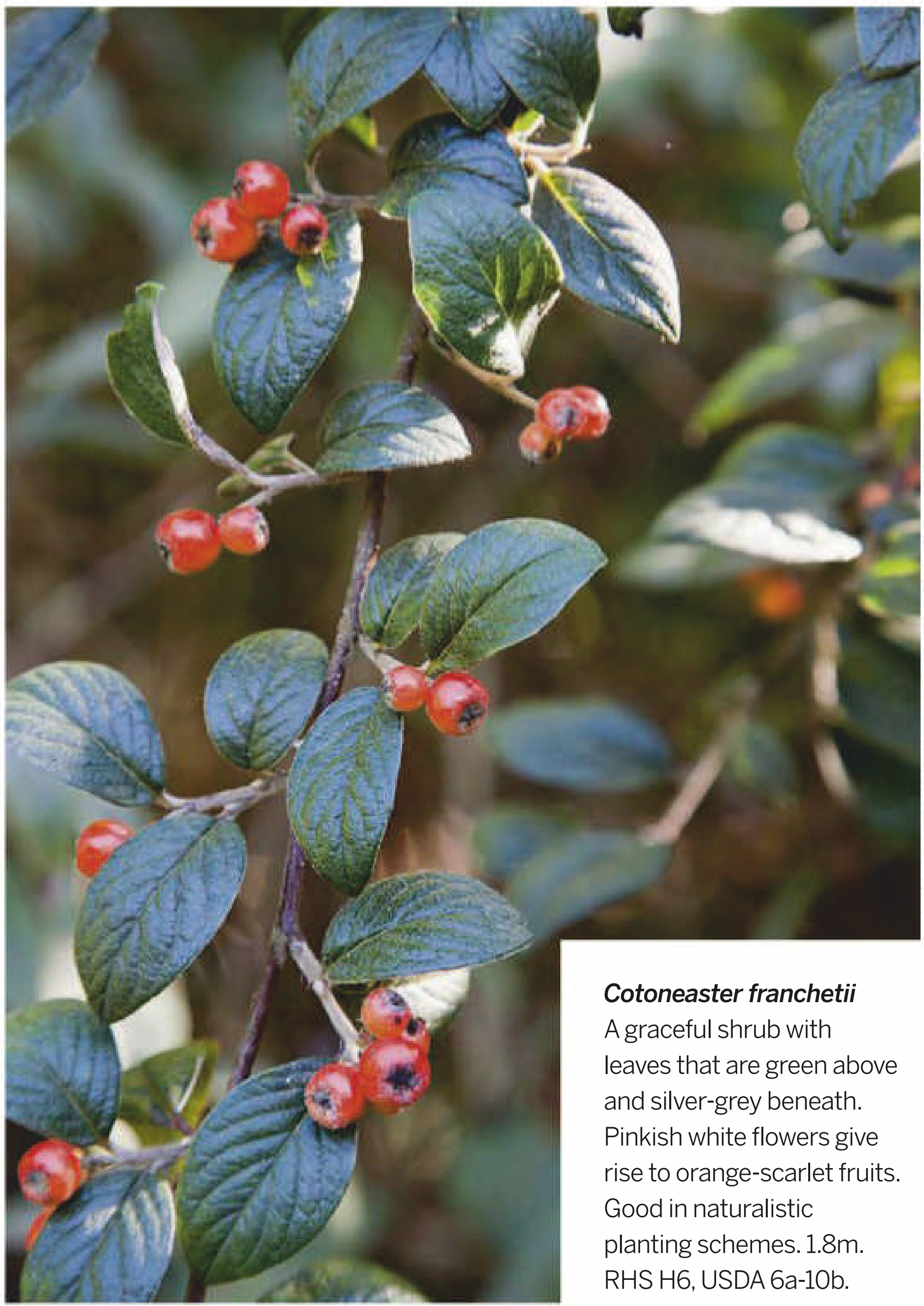
***Cotoneaster frigidus* 'Fructuluteo'**
Vigorous shrub of broad, spreading habit that can grow into a tree. Clusters of white spring flowers develop into heavy bunches of creamy-yellow berries. 10m. RHS H6, USDA 6a-9b.

Cotoneaster dammeri
A ground-hugging shrub with shining, evergreen leaves. Flowers appear singly in spring, followed by red berries in autumn. An excellent groundcover subject for shade. 30cm. RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b.

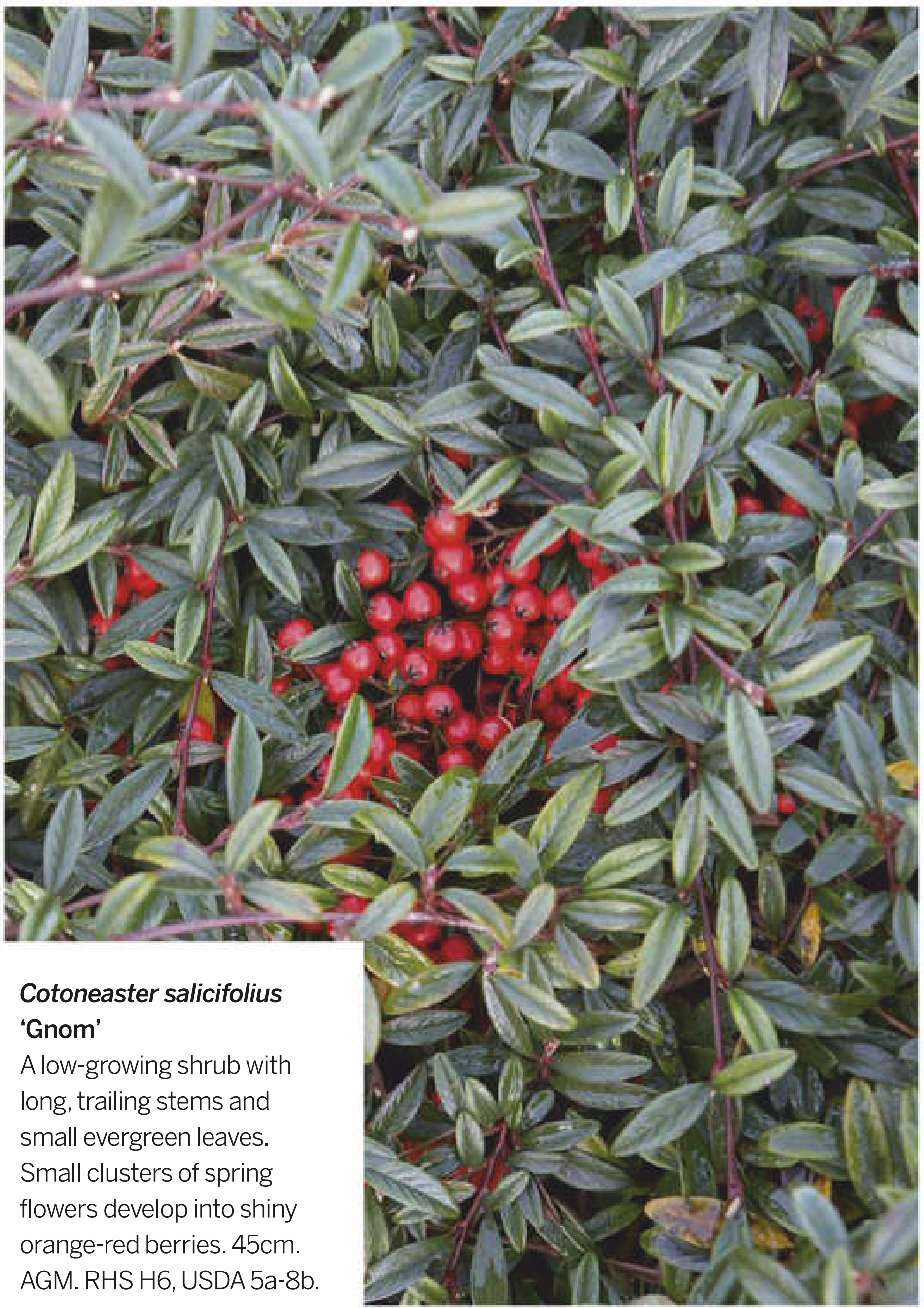




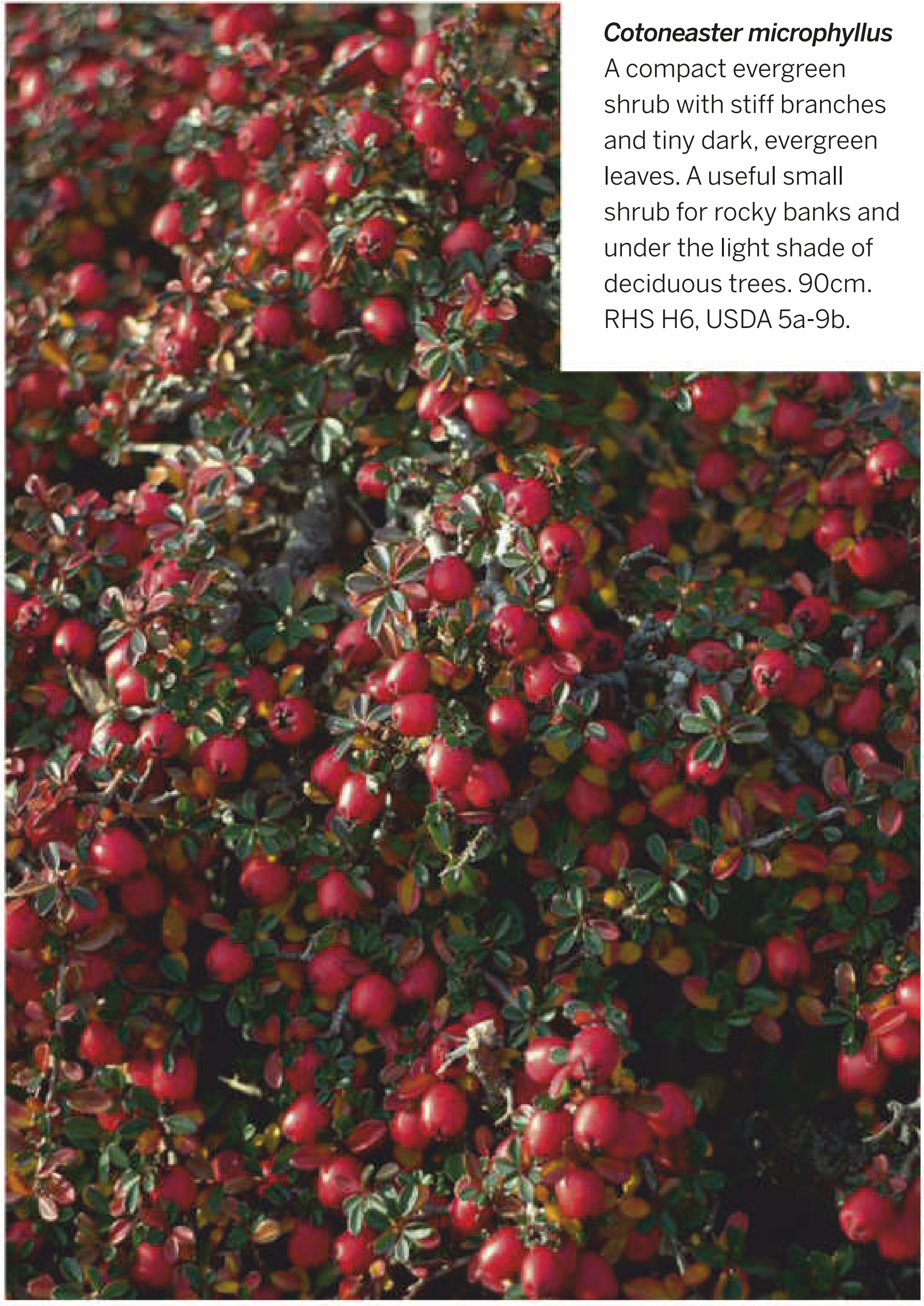
JOHN MARTIN / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; ELKE BORKOWSKI / GAP PHOTOS; DORLING KINDERSLEY LTD / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; JOE WAINWRIGHT / GAP PHOTOS; NOVA PHOTO GRAPHIK / GAP PHOTOS.



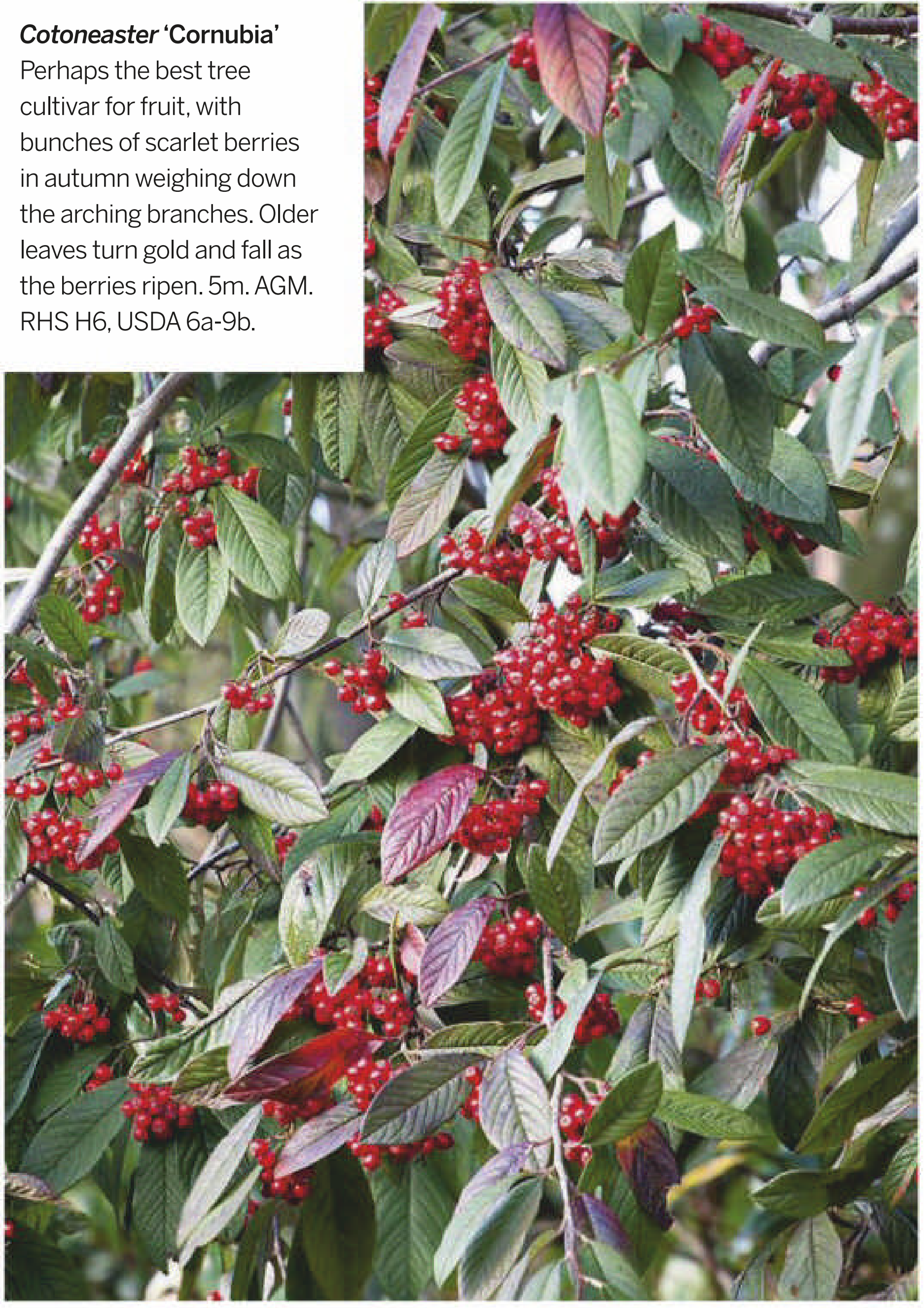
Cotoneaster franchetii
A graceful shrub with leaves that are green above and silver-grey beneath. Pinkish white flowers give rise to orange-scarlet fruits. Good in naturalistic planting schemes. 1.8m. RHS H6, USDA 6a-10b.



***Cotoneaster salicifolius* 'Gnom'**
A low-growing shrub with long, trailing stems and small evergreen leaves. Small clusters of spring flowers develop into shiny orange-red berries. 45cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b.

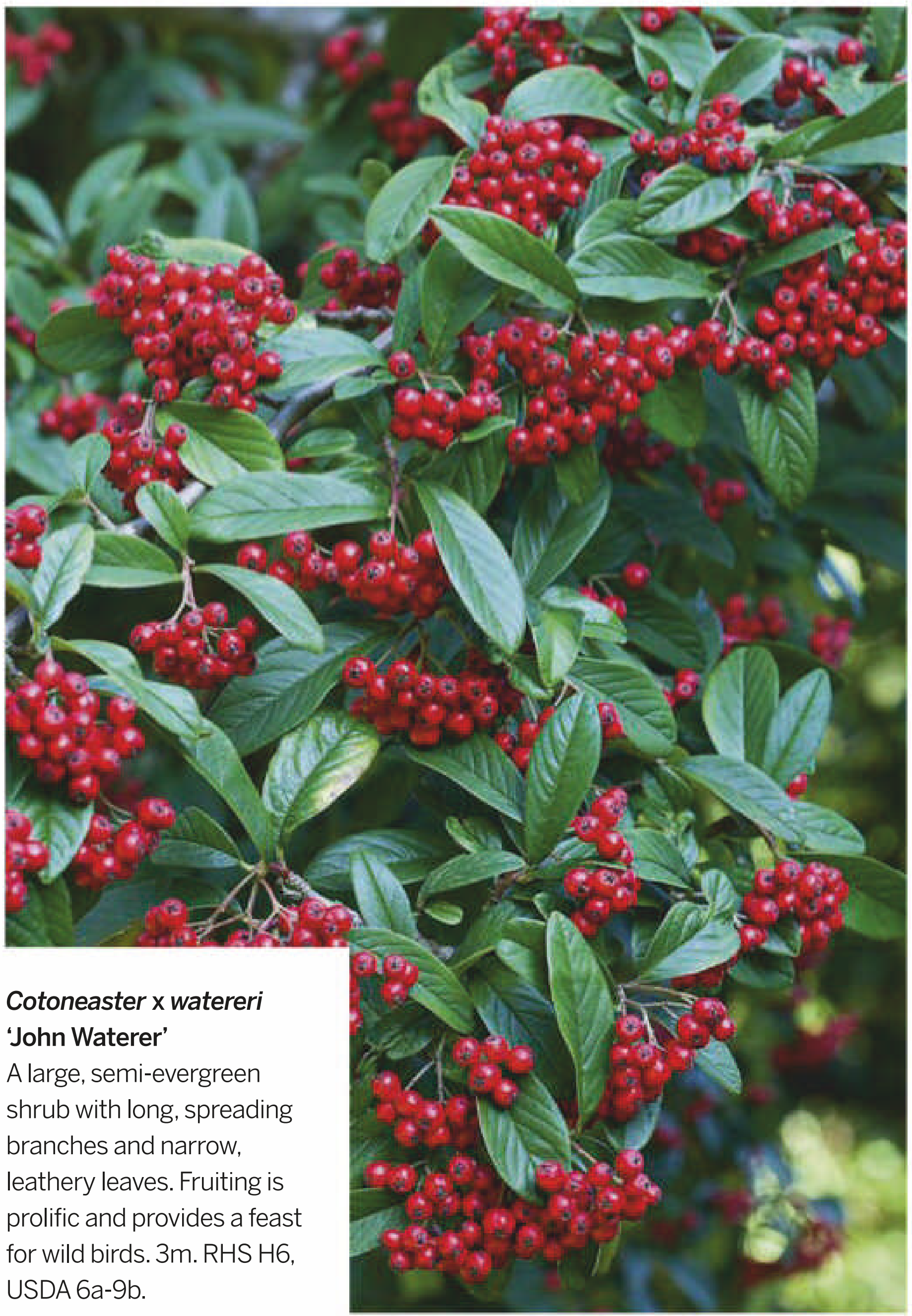


Cotoneaster microphyllus
A compact evergreen shrub with stiff branches and tiny dark, evergreen leaves. A useful small shrub for rocky banks and under the light shade of deciduous trees. 90cm. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.

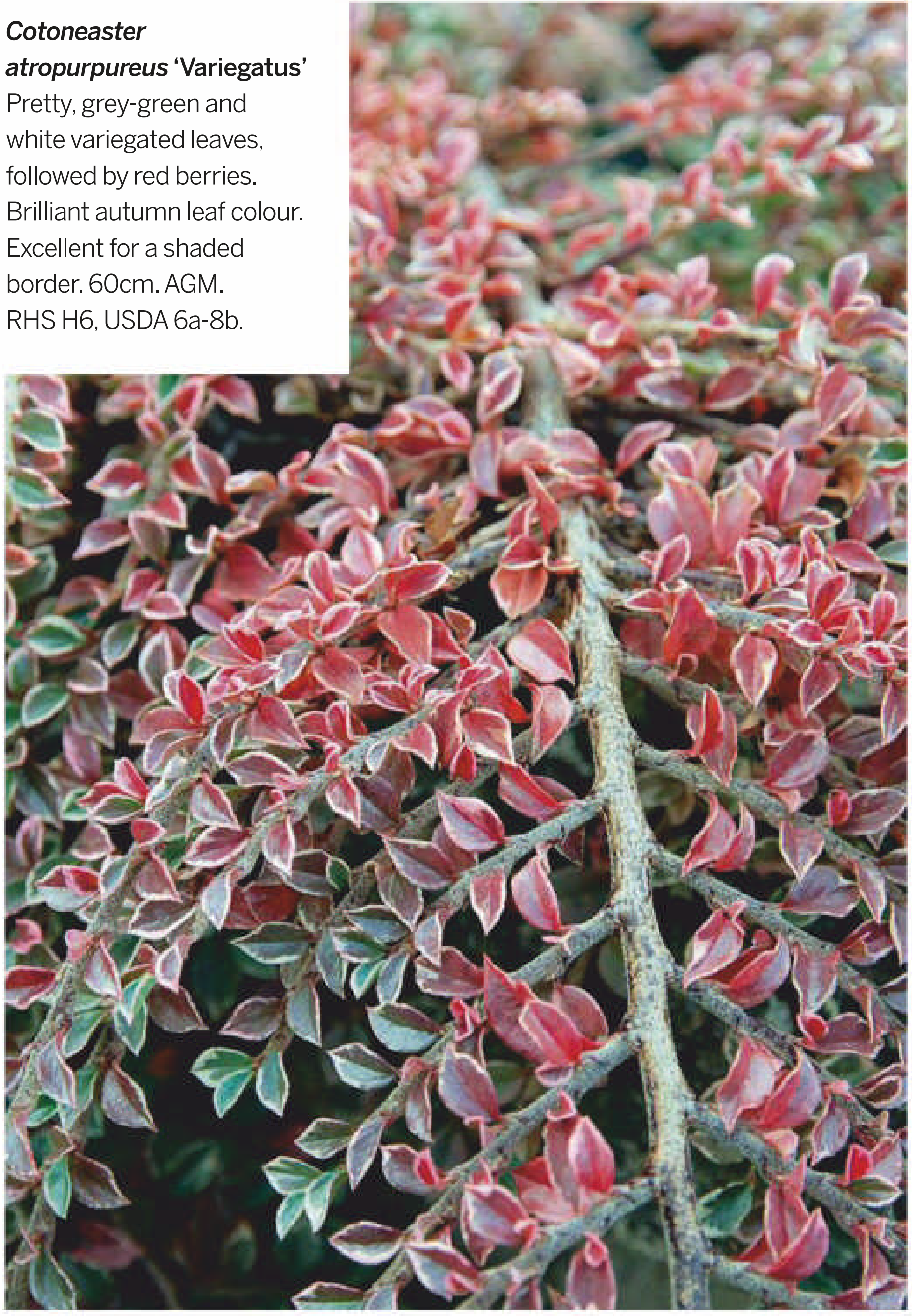


***Cotoneaster* 'Cornubia'**
Perhaps the best tree cultivar for fruit, with bunches of scarlet berries in autumn weighing down the arching branches. Older leaves turn gold and fall as the berries ripen. 5m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 6a-9b.

ABIGAIL REX, MATT ANKER, MARTIN HUGHES-JONES, JONATHAN BUCKLEY / ALL GAP PHOTOS.



***Cotoneaster* x *watereri* 'John Waterer'**
A large, semi-evergreen shrub with long, spreading branches and narrow, leathery leaves. Fruiting is prolific and provides a feast for wild birds. 3m. RHS H6, USDA 6a-9b.



***Cotoneaster atropurpureus* 'Variegatus'**
Pretty, grey-green and white variegated leaves, followed by red berries. Brilliant autumn leaf colour. Excellent for a shaded border. 60cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 6a-8b.

ROB WHITWORTH / GAP PHOTOS: MARTIN HUGHES-JONES / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Cultivation

Cotoneasters are easy to grow: they are tolerant of most soils including clay, as long as it is not waterlogged, and will also grow well in dry conditions on chalk and sand. They are also ideal for new-build gardens where other plants might struggle.

They will thrive in sun or shade, although flowering and fruiting is usually better when a plant gets three or more hours of direct sunlight a day during the growing season. In a smaller garden, plants that tolerate the shade and rain shadow of walls and fences are particularly valuable. Several, including *Cotoneaster franchetii*, *Cotoneaster* x *watereri* and *Cotoneaster frigidus,* can be trained against walls for colour.

Most cotoneasters grow swiftly and soon make an impact, so choose smaller plants in two- or three-litre pots. Even if your aim is to create a hedge, you are better off with several small plants. Because of their versatility several cotoneasters, such as *Cotoneaster microphyllus* and *Cotoneaster simonsii*, have been widely used for amenity planting. They cope with tough treatment and indiscriminate pruning. In a garden situation the only care needed when pruning is the preservation of their natural habit, unless they are used for hedging.

Pruning to control shape and size is best carried out in late winter or early spring. However, pruning can be done at any time of the year without causing harm.

Some species seed freely and when seed is distributed by birds it can result in some cotoneasters, especially *Cotoneaster horizontalis*, establishing and overwhelming native habitats such as limestone cliffs. Therefore, caution is advised when planting potentially invasive species in rural environments.

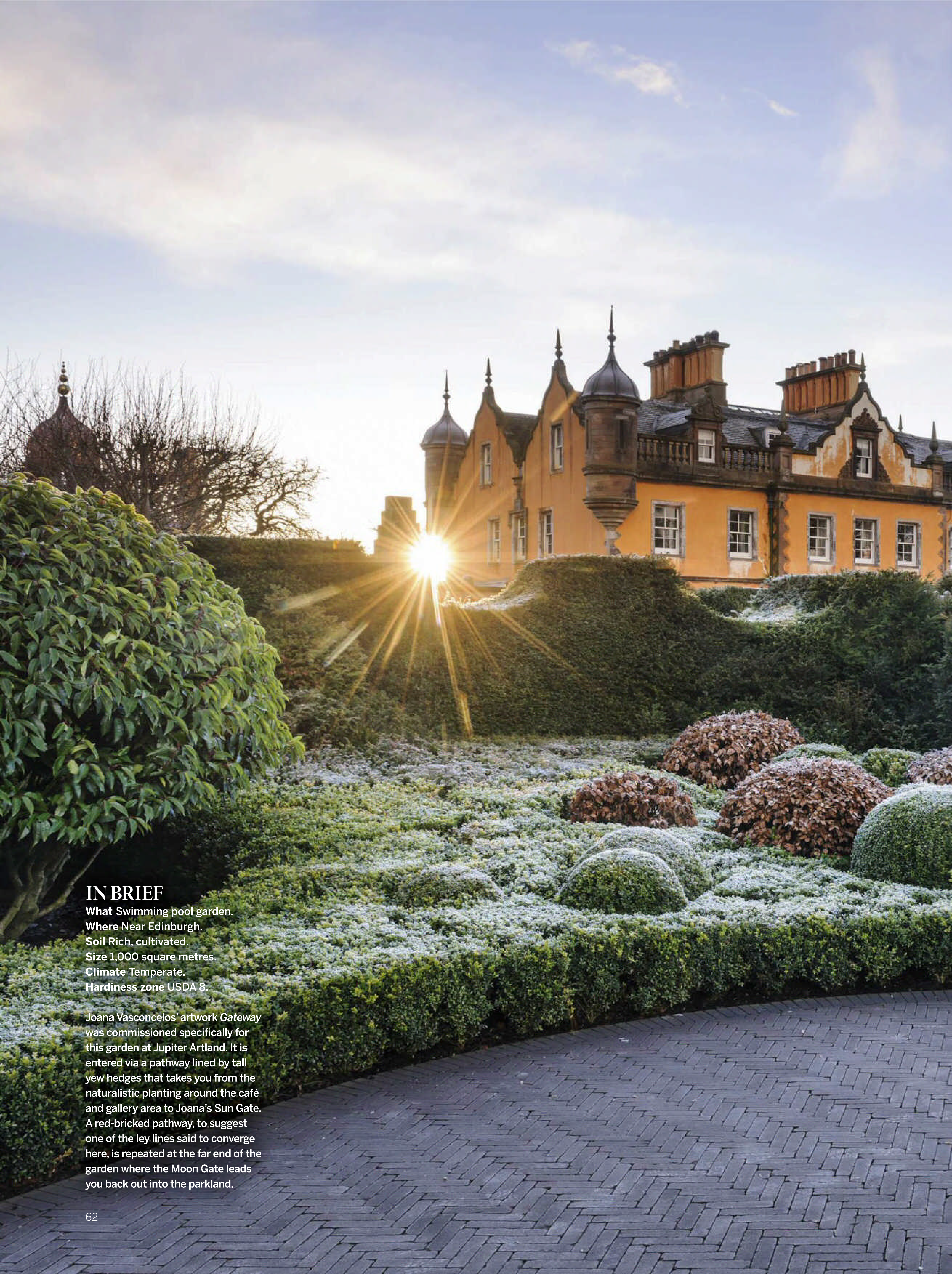
The wide range of sizes and habits offered by cotoneasters makes them suitable for a spectrum of planting schemes. Large-growing cotoneasters, such as *Cotoneaster* 'Cornubia' and *Cotoneaster* x *watereri*, are perfect for screening or as large, background shrubs in wide borders. They can also be trained as medium-sized evergreen trees.

Those of prostrate habit, especially *Cotoneaster dammeri*, *Cotoneaster salicifolius* and *Cotoneaster* x *suecicus* are very valuable evergreen groundcover shrubs that thrive in sun or shade. They are excellent on banks and slopes, embracing the contours gracefully where more upright subjects look awkward.

Where to buy and see

- **Ashwood Nurseries**
  Ashwood Lower Lane,
  Ashwood, Kingswinford,
  West Midlands DY6 0AE.
  Tel 01384 401996,
  ashwoodnurseries.com
- **Barcham Trees**
  Eye Hill Drove, Soham, Ely,
  Cambridgeshire CB7 5XF.
  Tel 01353 720748,
  barcham.co.uk
- **Beeches Nursery**
  Crown Hill, Ashdon, Saffron
  Walden, Essex CB10 2HB.
  Tel 01799 584362,
  beechesnursery.co.uk
- **Burncoose Nurseries**
  Gwennap, Redruth,
  Cornwall TR16 6BJ.
  Tel 01209 860011,
  burncoose.co.uk
- **Kelways Plants**
  Barrymore Farm,
  Picts Hill, Langport,
  Somerset TA10 9EZ.
  Tel 01458 250521,
  kelways.co.uk
- **Larch Cottage Nurseries**
  Melkinthorpe, Penrith,
  Cumbria CA10 2DR.
  Tel 01931 712404,
  larchcottage.co.uk
- **The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens***
  Jermyns Lane,
  Ampfield, Romsey,
  Hampshire SO51 0QA.
  Tel 01794 368787,
  hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/
  hilliergardens

*National Collection holder



IN BRIEF

What Swimming pool garden.
Where Near Edinburgh.
Soil Rich, cultivated.
Size 1,000 square metres.
Climate Temperate.
Hardiness zone USDA 8.

Joana Vasconcelos' artwork *Gateway* was commissioned specifically for this garden at Jupiter Artland. It is entered via a pathway lined by tall yew hedges that takes you from the naturalistic planting around the café and gallery area to Joana's Sun Gate. A red-bricked pathway, to suggest one of the ley lines said to converge here, is repeated at the far end of the garden where the Moon Gate leads you back out into the parkland.

A brighter splash

A colourful new artwork for Jupiter Artland in Scotland required a calm, green garden. Head gardener Thomas Unterdorfer explains the art of creating a pool garden that is also part of the art

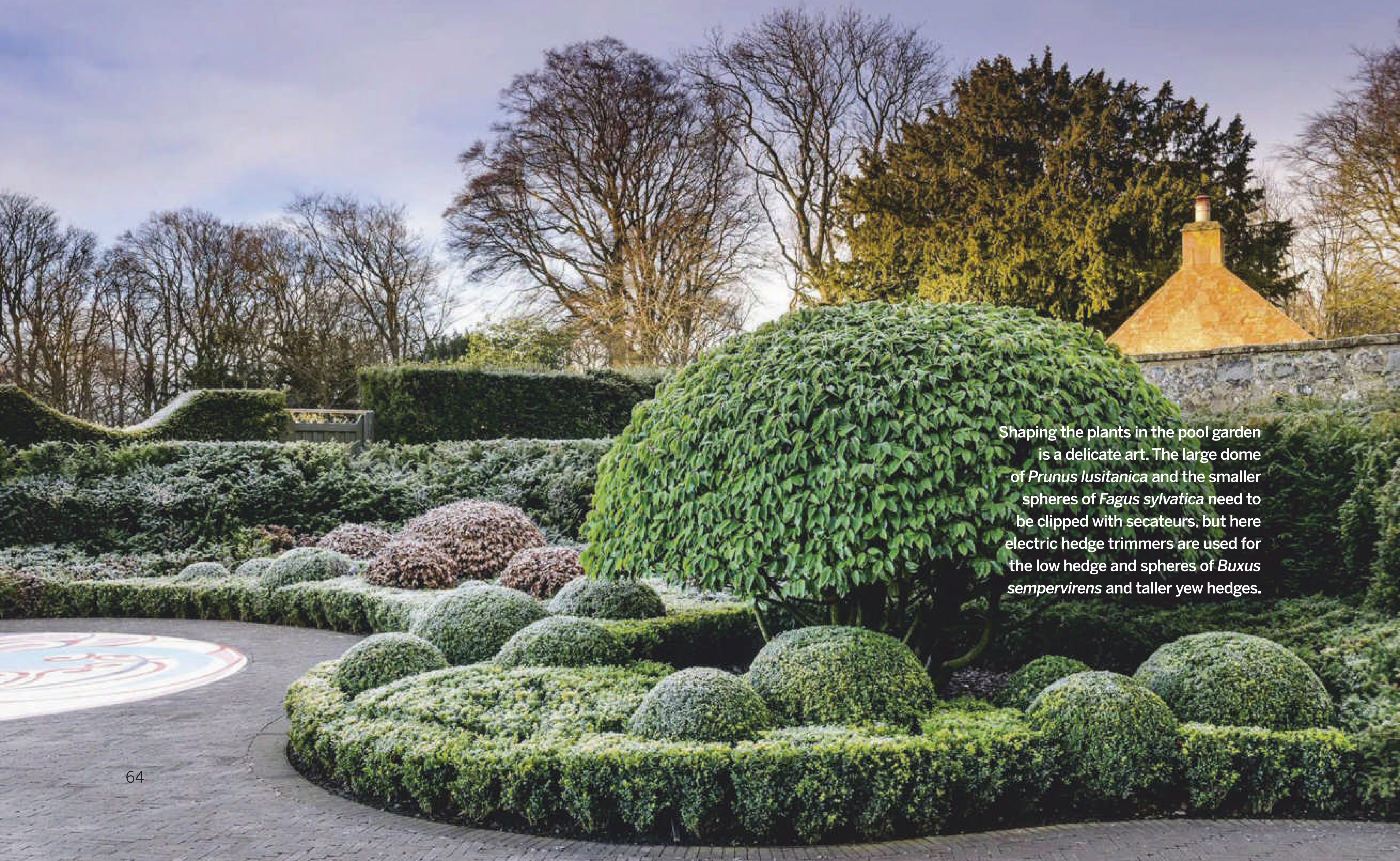
WORDS **THOMAS UNTERDORFER** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**

Designing a garden surrounding a swimming pool is always exciting, even more so when that pool is also a work of art. The modern, large-scale installation *Gateway* by the celebrated artist Joana Vasconcelos opened last year in the walled garden of Bonnington House, the 17th-century home of Nicky and Robert Wilson. Just over ten years ago Nicky and Robert transformed the 120 acres of parkland surrounding their Scottish home into the contemporary sculpture park Jupiter Artland. Starting with *Cells of Life,* a series of terraced earthworks by Charles Jencks, the Wilsons have added to their permanent collection with works from artists such as Antony Gormley, Andy Goldsworthy and Phyllida Barlow. Many are site specific and the artists often form a relationship with the landscape here before conceiving their artworks so that each piece is closely linked to the site and its history.

Gateway is no exception. Joana took her inspiration from the ley lines that are said to converge in Jupiter's landscape, while also including elements that make the artwork personal to the Wilson family. Around the circular pool are six curved shapes (one for Nicky, Robert and each of their four children) that many have likened to the petals of a flower, although Joana has told me her vision was of a single drop of water falling from the heavens and landing on a powerful ley line to create a seismic splash. Ribbons of bright colour formed by 11,366 unique tiles, each one hand-painted and glazed in Joana's native Portugal, weave across the pool, representing the energy lines and the astrological charts of the Wilson family and of Joana herself, making this a piece that is personal to Joana as much as to the place where it sits.

Any artwork, even one in which you can swim, needs careful positioning, but with *Gateway* the space is also part of the art, so in designing this garden Nicky and I worked closely with Joana to link pool and planting. Joana asked for a green planting palette that wouldn't distract from the artwork's bright colours, so we have limited ourselves to just four hedging plants – yew, box, laurel and beech – chosen for their form and graphic qualities. My initial idea was to fill the box-edged beds with green grasses but Joana also wanted to avoid movement in the planting, making the ripples of the water even more powerful. Instead the curvilinear box beds, which fold around the curves of the pool, are filled with numerous spheres of different sizes of box and beech to suggest the droplets created by the splash. These support ▷

My initial idea was to fill the box beds with grasses but Joana wanted to avoid movement in the planting, making the ripples of the water even more powerful



Shaping the plants in the pool garden is a delicate art. The large dome of *Prunus lusitanica* and the smaller spheres of *Fagus sylvatica* need to be clipped with secateurs, but here electric hedge trimmers are used for the low hedge and spheres of *Buxus sempervirens* and taller yew hedges.

Texture and composition

So as not to distract from the colours of the pool, the garden relies on the texture and structure of just four hedging plants (clockwise from top left):

Buxus sempervirens We clip box twice a year to keep a crisp appearance, and feed in spring to keep it healthy. 5m. RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b†.

Prunus lusitanica We shape it with secateurs early in the season to avoid damaged leaves and, in our case, flowering. If possible choose 'Myrtifolia', as its smaller leaves increase the play of sunlight on the surface. 15m. AGM*. RHS H5, USDA 6a-8b.

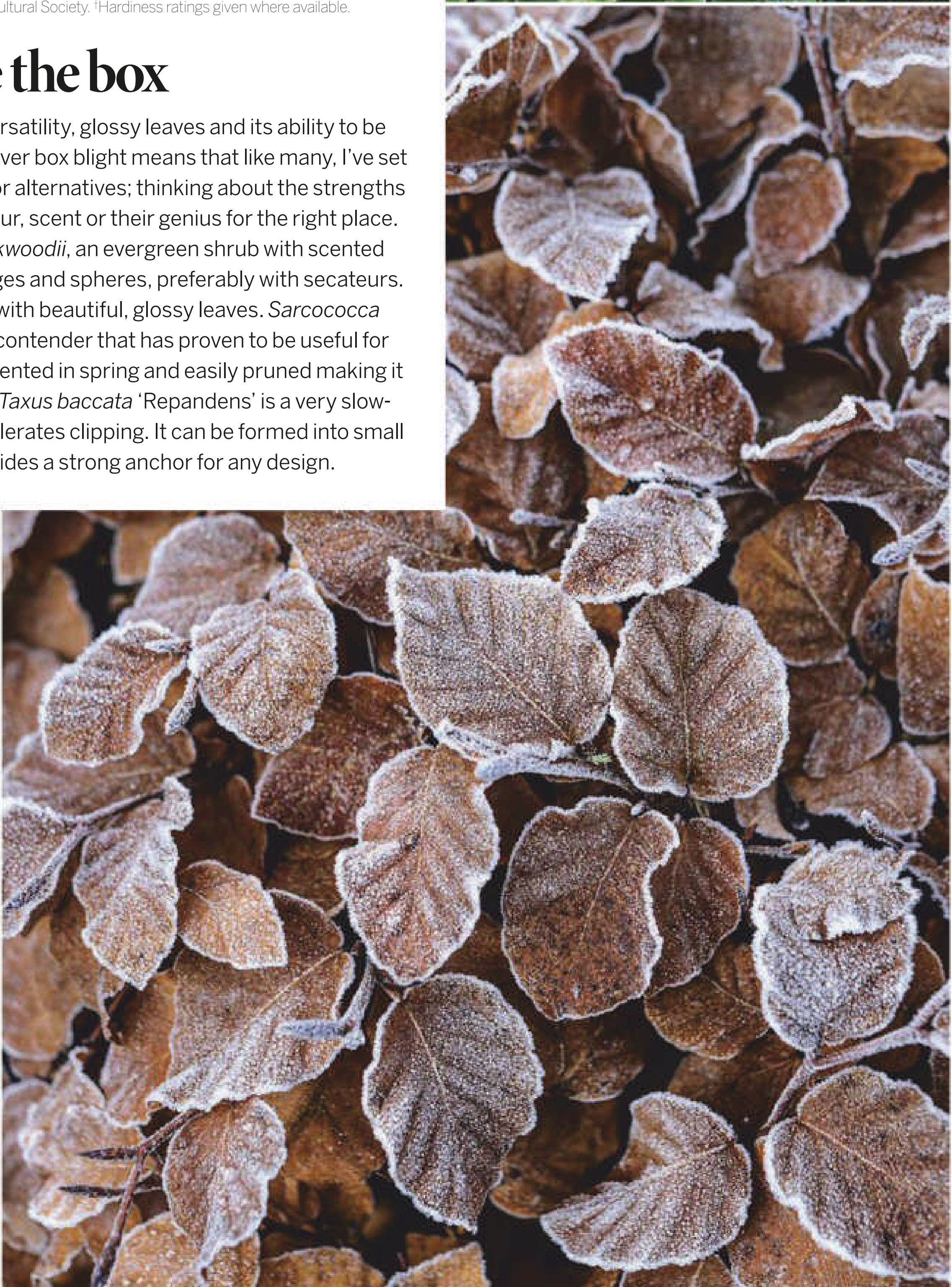
Fagus sylvatica Common beech can be fashioned as spheres, but use secateurs to avoid blemishes of the leaves. Late frosts can cause damage on young leaves, so we cover the plants with horticultural fleece. 25m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 4a-7b.

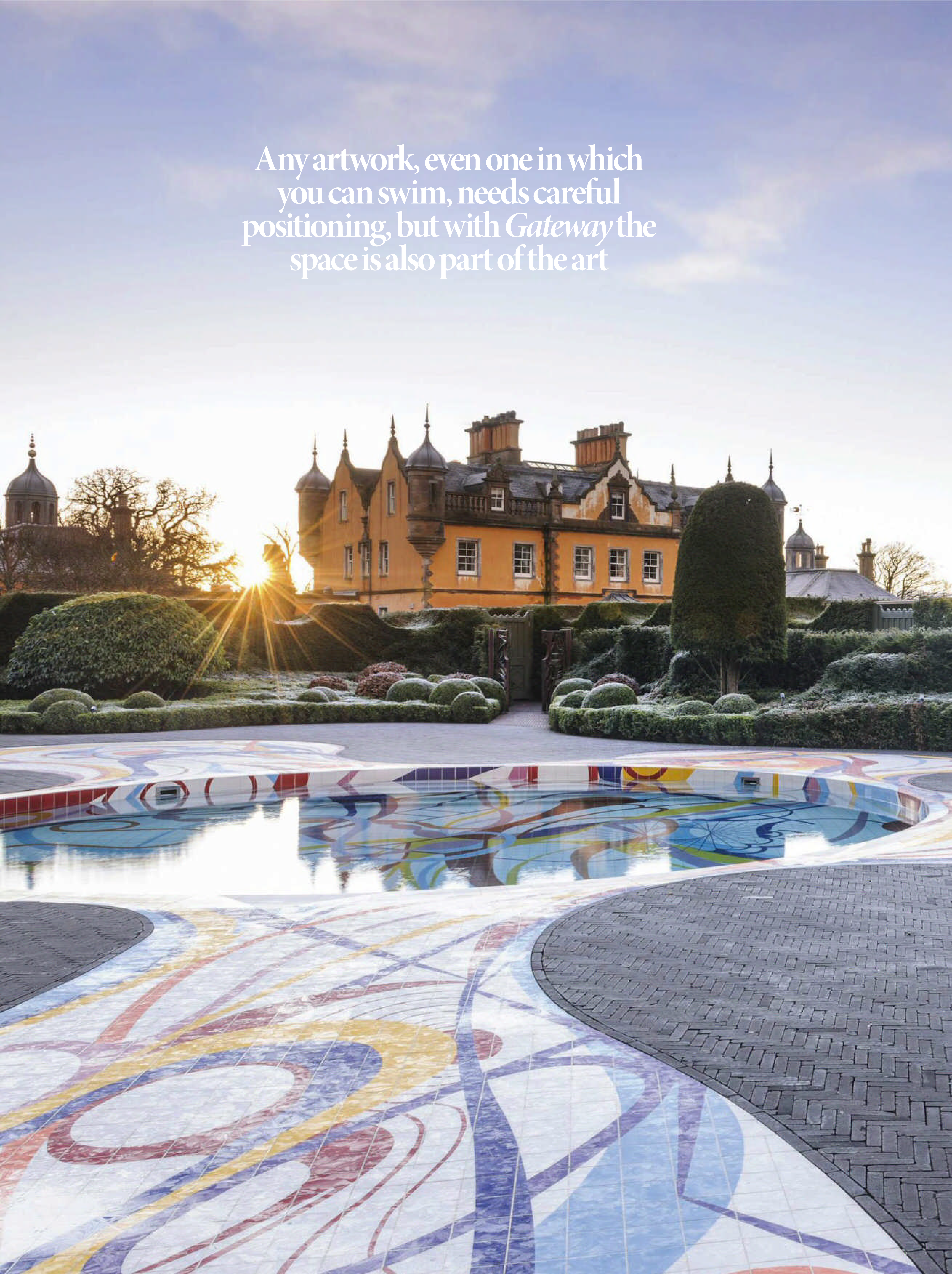
Taxus baccata English yew is one of my favourite topiary plants. Clip in early August to keep it in shape through the winter. We clip it at least twice a year with hedge trimmers followed by secateurs to achieve a neat finish. 20m. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 6a-7b.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.

Outside the box

While box remains unsurpassed for its versatility, glossy leaves and its ability to be shaped into wondrous creations, concern over box blight means that like many, I've set myself the enjoyable challenge of looking for alternatives; thinking about the strengths of different selections for their health, colour, scent or their genius for the right place. One of my favourites is *Osmanthus* x *burkwoodii*, an evergreen shrub with scented white flowers, that can be shaped into hedges and spheres, preferably with secateurs. Over time, it will become a dense shape with beautiful, glossy leaves. *Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *humilis* is another strong contender that has proven to be useful for small hedges. It is evergreen, beautifully scented in spring and easily pruned making it especially useful for dark, shady corners. *Taxus baccata* 'Repandens' is a very slow-growing cultivar of the common yew and tolerates clipping. It can be formed into small hedges, spheres or clouds and provides a strong anchor for any design.





Any artwork, even one in which you can swim, needs careful positioning, but with *Gateway* the space is also part of the art

▷ five large topiary pieces – three yew and two Portuguese laurel – that give structure and height to the planting and frame the space. Green waves of box and yew lead up to a straight yew hedge that frames the entire garden creating a sense of enclosure and tranquillity. Throughout, we kept hard landscaping to a minimum using only black bricks, even for the internal wall in the glass-domed pool house, and Corten steel for all edging and other details.

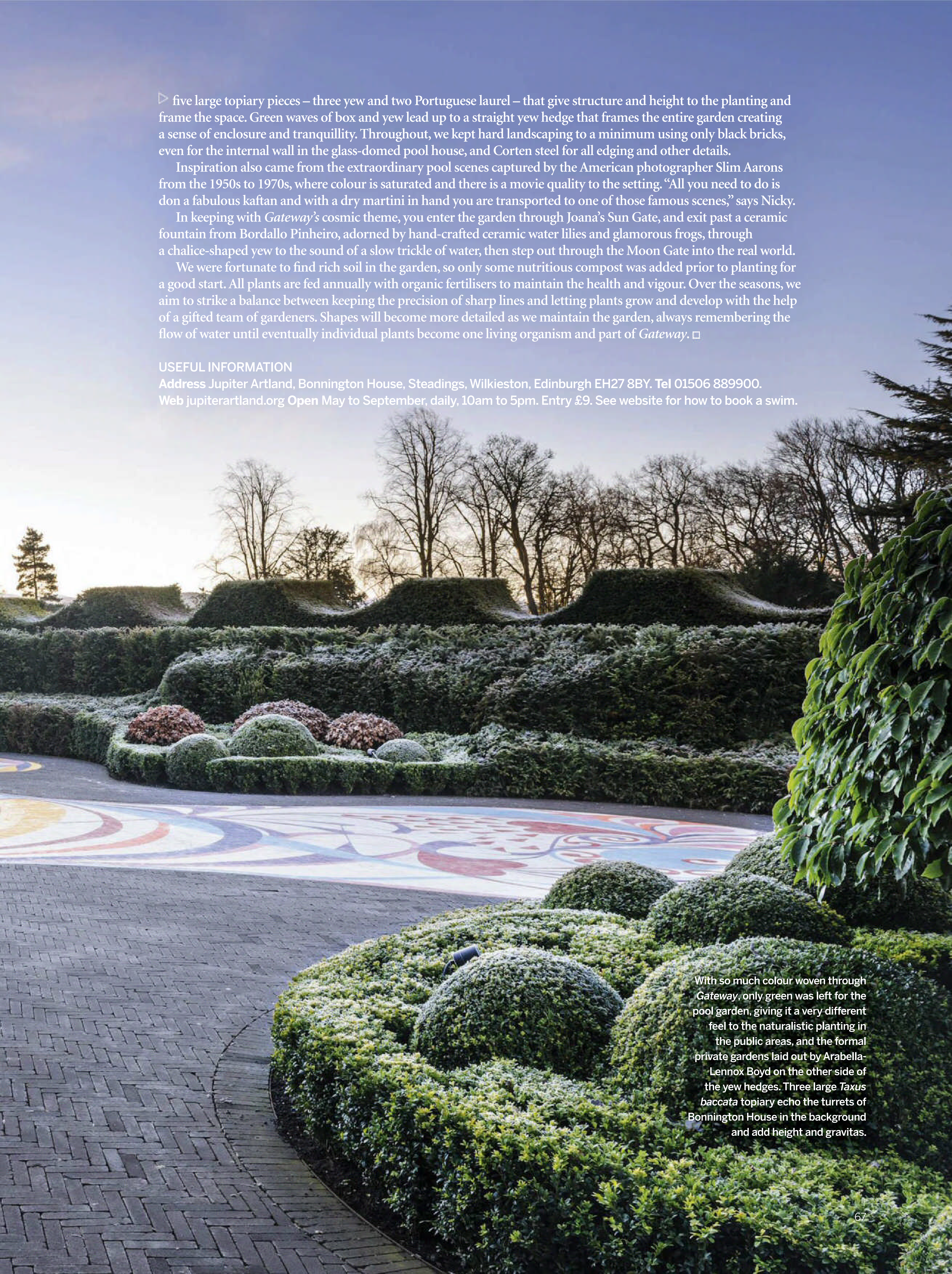
Inspiration also came from the extraordinary pool scenes captured by the American photographer Slim Aarons from the 1950s to 1970s, where colour is saturated and there is a movie quality to the setting. “All you need to do is don a fabulous kaftan and with a dry martini in hand you are transported to one of those famous scenes,” says Nicky.

In keeping with *Gateway’s* cosmic theme, you enter the garden through Joana’s Sun Gate, and exit past a ceramic fountain from Bordallo Pinheiro, adorned by hand-crafted ceramic water lilies and glamorous frogs, through a chalice-shaped yew to the sound of a slow trickle of water, then step out through the Moon Gate into the real world.

We were fortunate to find rich soil in the garden, so only some nutritious compost was added prior to planting for a good start. All plants are fed annually with organic fertilisers to maintain the health and vigour. Over the seasons, we aim to strike a balance between keeping the precision of sharp lines and letting plants grow and develop with the help of a gifted team of gardeners. Shapes will become more detailed as we maintain the garden, always remembering the flow of water until eventually individual plants become one living organism and part of *Gateway*. ◻

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Jupiter Artland, Bonnington House, Steadings, Wilkieston, Edinburgh EH27 8BY. **Tel** 01506 889900.
Web jupiterartland.org **Open** May to September, daily, 10am to 5pm. Entry £9. See website for how to book a swim.



With so much colour woven through *Gateway*, only green was left for the pool garden, giving it a very different feel to the naturalistic planting in the public areas, and the formal private gardens laid out by Arabella-Lennox Boyd on the other side of the yew hedges. Three large *Taxus baccata* topiary echo the turrets of Bonnington House in the background and add height and gravitas.

HORTICULTURAL WHO'S WHO

PAT HAVERS

Waterperry Gardens' self-taught head gardener on learning the ropes by osmosis, why there was no messing with Miss Havergal and a lifetime spent loving the gardens where she now works

WORDS CLAIRE MASSET PORTRAIT CHARLIE HOPKINSON

The story of how Pat Havers became a professional gardener is so charming that it would make a lovely children's book. It is the tale of a little girl who grew up near a beautiful garden, surrounded by a friendly band of women, and learned the ropes by osmosis.

Pat was born in the small village of Waterperry in Oxfordshire. The focus of the village was a pioneering 'school for lady gardeners'. It had been set up in the 1930s by Beatrix Havergal and her partner Avice Sanders and was renowned for its first-class teaching. Over the years (it closed in 1971), the school trained many professional women gardeners, including Pamela Schwerdt and Sibylle Kreutzberger, who went on to do great things at Sissinghurst.

> I FEEL THE NEED TO KEEP WATERPERRY LOOKING LOVELY, BUT NOT TO CHANGE IT. THAT WOULD FEEL LIKE A BETRAYAL

Waterperry was Pat's childhood playground but also – unbeknown to her at the time – her training ground. "My mum worked in the garden and, when my dad died when I was six, the team wrapped their arms around me." Pat spent her spare time and holidays there. Students and staff at Waterperry worked side-by-side and most lived in; it was a warm, friendly community.

"There are pictures of me asleep in the wheelbarrow," Pat smiles, thinking back to her younger years. She recalls the little tasks she was allowed to do, such as using rabbits' tails to pollinate the strawberries. "I remember Miss Havergal. You didn't mess with her – but on the other hand she had a heart of gold. She would put on Christmas parties for the village children, and the students would play games with you.

"One day, when I was four or five, I was playing near the potting shed. Miss Havergal came over with a group of people. I thought I was going to get told off, but instead she said: 'This is my youngest student.'" How right Beatrix Havergal was.

When Pat was nine or ten, she took a trip with her mum to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. She remembers the excitement as she wove her way through the crowds and stood on tiptoe to catch a glimpse of Miss Havergal's famous strawberry exhibit. (Miss H, or Trix, as she was variously known, was a passionate strawberry grower and won a total of 15 gold medals for her displays.)

As she grew up, Pat spread her wings in the world of work, but remained a Waterperry resident. Then suddenly she became a single mum and had to juggle work and raising two young daughters on her own. "That's when I started working part-time in the Waterperry café. A few years later, they asked me if I'd like a job in the garden." Eventually, the position of head gardener became vacant. "I didn't go for the job at the time, but the team realised I knew more about the gardens than anyone else coming in." So the job was hers.

Pat has had no formal training. She describes herself as a 'homegrown head gardener'. After 20 years at the helm, she understands the garden intuitively. She knows what to do and when to do it and is most proud of the fact that she has finally mastered the garden's complicated and intricate three-season border. "It's taken me all this time, but I've got my head around it," she beams.

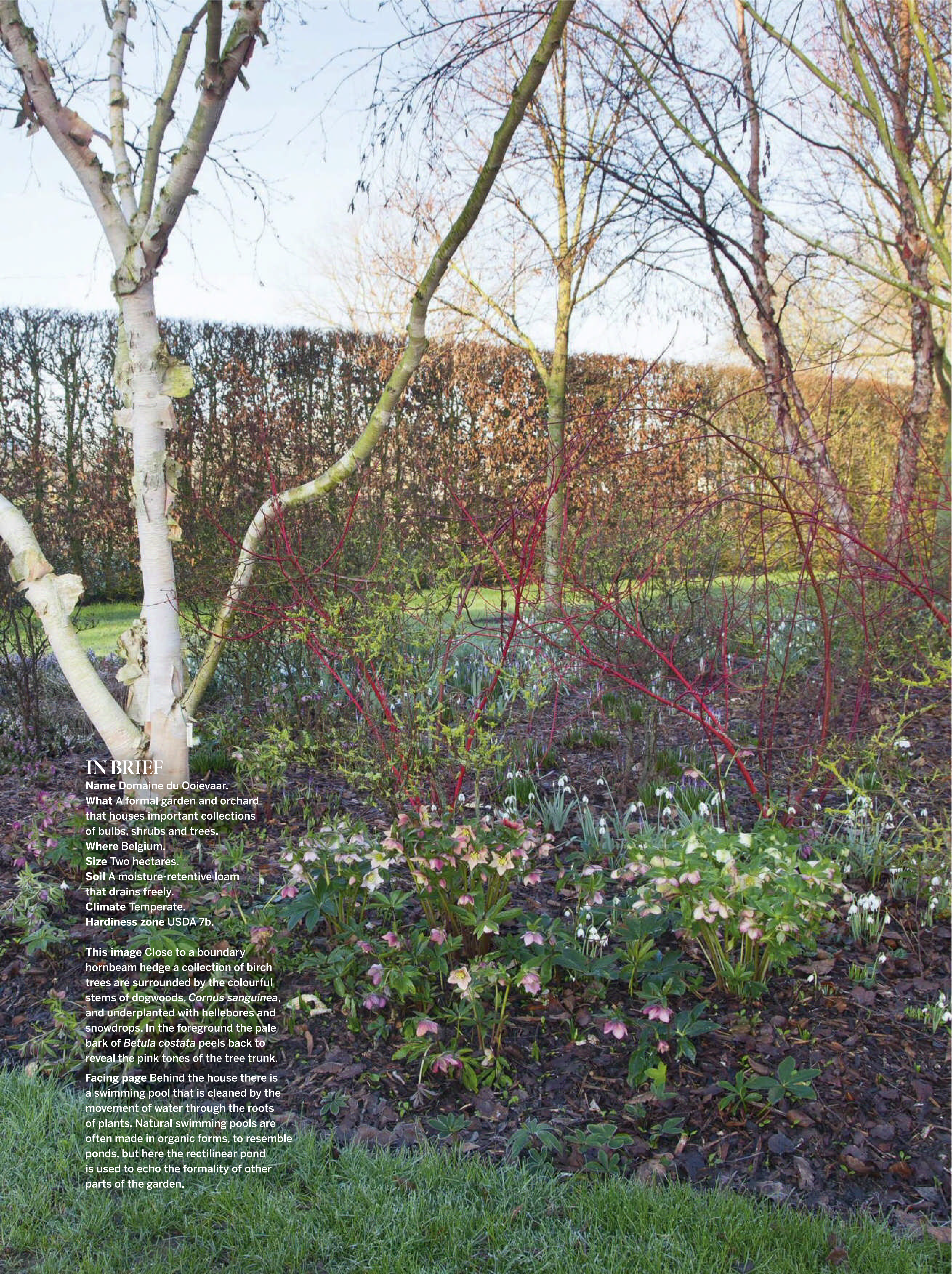
Perhaps surprisingly, Pat has no desire to put her own stamp on the garden. Her pleasure comes from maintaining its high standards and perpetuating its legacy. "I could never be bored or ever feel that I need to make a great impact on the garden. I feel the need to keep it looking lovely, but not to change it. That would feel like a betrayal." The only area where she allows herself free rein is in the cutting garden. "I can put whatever I like there and have a bit of fun with it. When everything is getting on top of me, that's where I go." She has her own garden to retreat to as well, just minutes away in the village, where she unashamedly gives in to her love of the cottage garden style. Despite her own plot's loveliness, in the evenings and at weekends, Pat finds it hard to resist walking over to her 'other' garden and having a wander to make sure everything is looking just right.

Still today the garden remains true to its origins and has strong teaching credentials. As well as offering a variety of in-house classes, it runs an RHS Level 2 course. In Waterperry tradition, some of the modules are taught by members of the gardening team, including Pat.

Listening to Pat, it's patently clear how much she loves the place. "There is often the need to make your own story and your own mark when you start working in a garden. Mine had already started from childhood. When I came to be head gardener, I had all that history to fall back on. The story was already there. I almost feel like it was meant to be. That's why I do it: for all the ladies that were here before me." □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Waterperry Gardens, Waterperry, Oxfordshire OX33 1LA.
Tel 01844 339226, waterperrygardens.co.uk



IN BRIEF

Name Domaine du Ooievaar.
What A formal garden and orchard that houses important collections of bulbs, shrubs and trees.
Where Belgium.
Size Two hectares.
Soil A moisture-retentive loam that drains freely.
Climate Temperate.
Hardiness zone USDA 7b.

This image Close to a boundary hornbeam hedge a collection of birch trees are surrounded by the colourful stems of dogwoods, *Cornus sanguinea*, and underplanted with hellebores and snowdrops. In the foreground the pale bark of *Betula costata* peels back to reveal the pink tones of the tree trunk.

Facing page Behind the house there is a swimming pool that is cleaned by the movement of water through the roots of plants. Natural swimming pools are often made in organic forms, to resemble ponds, but here the rectilinear pond is used to echo the formality of other parts of the garden.

Formal thinking

In the garden around their Flanders farmhouse, Olivier and Trudy Vico have combined formality with exuberant planting

WORDS **JOHN HOYLAND** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANNAÏCK GUITTENY**

Above In the orchard the fruit trees are planted in a grid and are linked by lines of spring-flowering bulbs. Olivier explains that this also has a practical maintenance benefit: the grass in most of the orchard can be mown while the bulbs are left to die down naturally.

Facing page A stream runs through the garden and passes along the boundary. Here the couple have planted snowdrops, forms of *Cyclamen coum* and part of their collection of *Hamamelis*. The shade provided by the American red oaks, *Quercus rubra*, and the well-drained soil of the bank provide perfect conditions for the plants.

I am a plant collector, obsessively so, and this is a plant collector's garden," says Olivier Vico, speaking of Domaine du Ooievaar, the garden he has created southwest of Ghent in Belgium. "But, I also like well-designed gardens and I did not want a garden like so many collectors' gardens, with plants growing together and hundreds of plant labels." Olivier has succeeded beautifully and, together with his wife Trudy, has made a harmonious garden that sits comfortably in the surrounding landscape, wearing its horticultural credentials lightly.

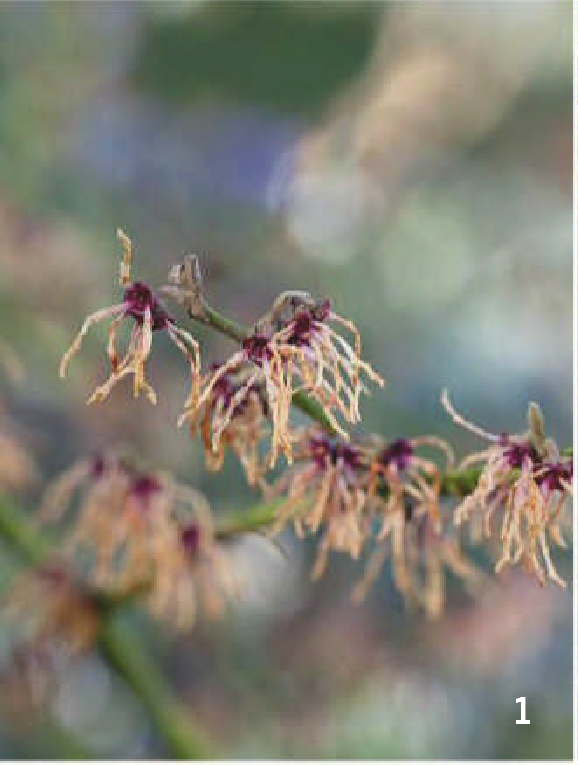
The house, a traditional Flanders farmhouse built from red brick with the white pointing typical of the area, is built on three sides around an open courtyard. "I knew from the very beginning that in this central courtyard the garden had to be formal," explains Olivier. Evoking the *cour d'honneur* of grand French and Dutch gardens of the 18th century, the courtyard is flanked by pleached limes enclosing a parterre of low box hedges, punctuated, in each quadrant, by yew pyramids. The rigorous formality of the gardens that inspired it, though, is challenged by the exuberant planting within the box-hedged areas, with a vibrant mixture of herbaceous perennials, annuals, grasses and, above all, bulbs ensuring that this part of the garden is full of colour and movement throughout the year.

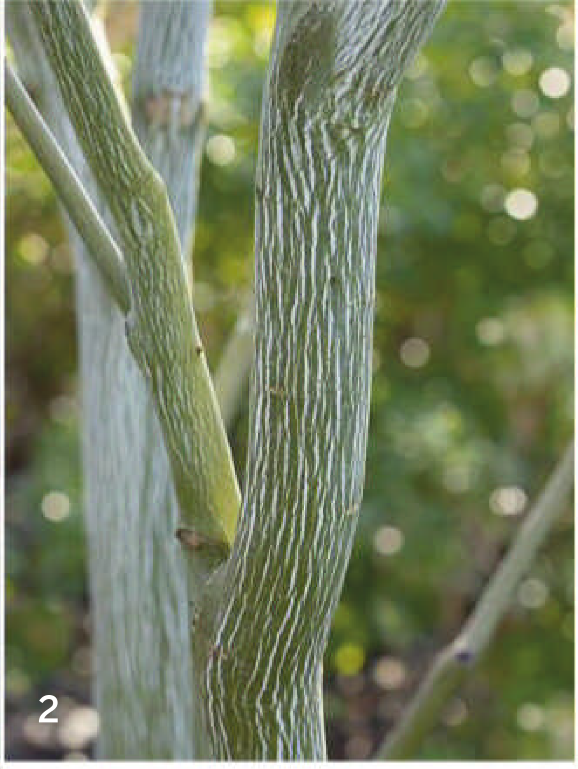
Moving away from the house the formality continues in an orchard of 22 fruit trees that are planted in a grid pattern. In the classical manner, the further one is from the house the less formal the garden becomes. "Given the layout of the buildings, a certain formality imposes itself," says Olivier, "but as we get further away from them, we allow ourselves an element of looseness and a preference for more organic forms." In the orchard this looseness is provided by 30,000 narcissi, snowdrops and camassias planted, not throughout the orchard as they might be in most gardens, but in the connecting lines between the trees. Once the bulbs have finished flowering, they are left to die back naturally, allowing grasses to grow up in waves between the trees.

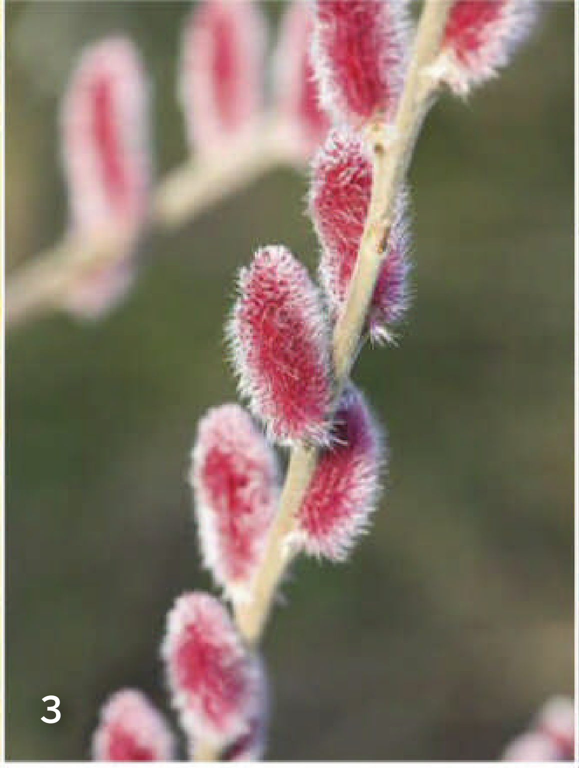
A rediscovered appreciation of 18th-century French and Dutch gardens is evident in many contemporary gardens in the region and Olivier has been influenced by several of the most important ones. The revered French plantswoman Princess Sturdza advised them on the importance of using evergreens as an anchor for both deciduous hedges and ephemeral plantings. At Jardin Plume, the ▷

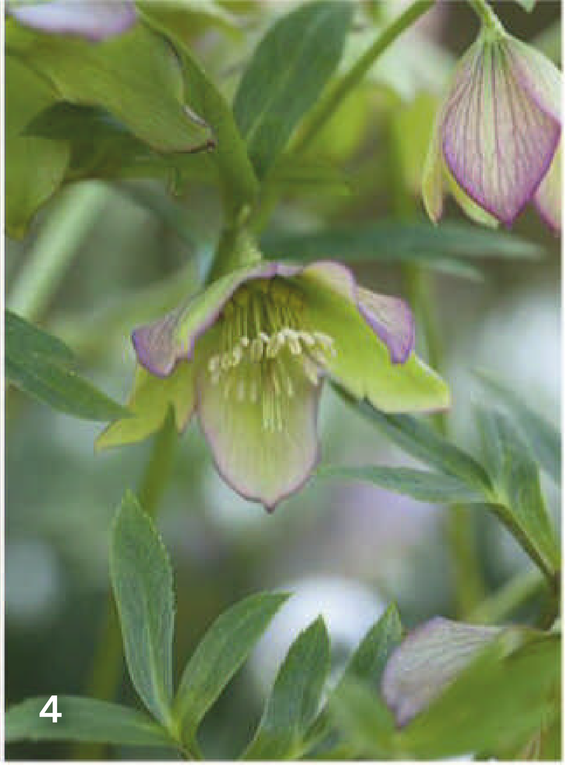
To continue turn to page 76

Snowdrops are planted where they can romp around, cross pollinate and, most importantly, bring life and colour for many months


1


2


3


4

12 KEY PLANTS

1 *Hamamelis* x *intermedia* 'Spanish Spider' A form of witch hazel that blooms from January to March. The flowers have twisted, crinkly petals that, for some people, resemble spiders' legs. Hamamelis prefer rich, well-drained soils and will not grow on chalk. 3m. RHS H5, USDA 5a-8b[†].

2 *Acer davidii* Known as the snake-bark maple because of the attractively striated green and grey bark. In autumn its foliage turns first orange then a buttery yellow. 12m. RHS H5, USDA 5a-7b.

3 *Salix gracilistyla* 'Mount Aso' An eye-catching form of Japanese pussy willow that has attractive, bright-pink catkins in late winter and early spring. The foliage has a glaucous sheen with silvery undersides to the leaves. It grows best in rich, moist soils. 4m. RHS H5.

4 *Helleborus croaticus* The Croatian hellebore is a clump-forming species hellebore that has slightly pointed petals with a greenish tinge on the interior and purple veining on the outside. This is a tough plant that soon forms large clumps. 40cm. RHS H6, USDA 6a-8b.

5 *Helleborus* x *hybridus* Party Dress Group A hellebore hybrid with double flowers. Originally promoted by hellebore breeder Robin White at Blackthorn Nursery, the name now encompasses double-flowered forms with white, pink and purple flowers, often with speckled petals. 50cm. RHS H7, USDA 4a-9b.

6 *Galanthus* 'Hippolyta' A vigorous snowdrop that quickly forms large clumps. The inner petals are heavily marked with green and the outer ones often have a faint veining. It flowers later than most snowdrops, looking at its best in March. 20cm. RHS H5.

7 *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans' A conifer that undergoes an extraordinary annual transformation. At the beginning of the year the foliage starts out a blue-green colour, which turns a fresh-green throughout summer and then by autumn the whole shrub turns a rusty red. The feathery foliage is unusually soft for a conifer. 2m. AGM*. RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b.

8 *Crocus tommasinianus* Perhaps the best crocus for naturalising in turf as the relatively long neck of the flower holds it above the grass. Flowers in February and March, and once established it will happily self-seed and form large colonies. 10cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 3a-8b.

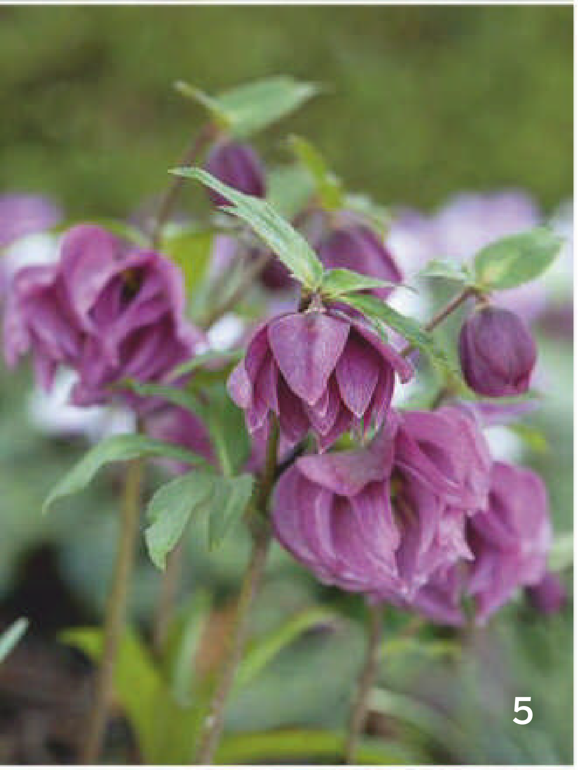
9 *Cyclamen coum* f. *pallidum* 'Album' The white-flowered form of *Cyclamen coum* has a deep-purple stain at the base of the petals. The foliage often has a silvery sheen. Flowers from January to March and will eventually form large groups. 10cm. RHS H5, USDA 5a-9b.

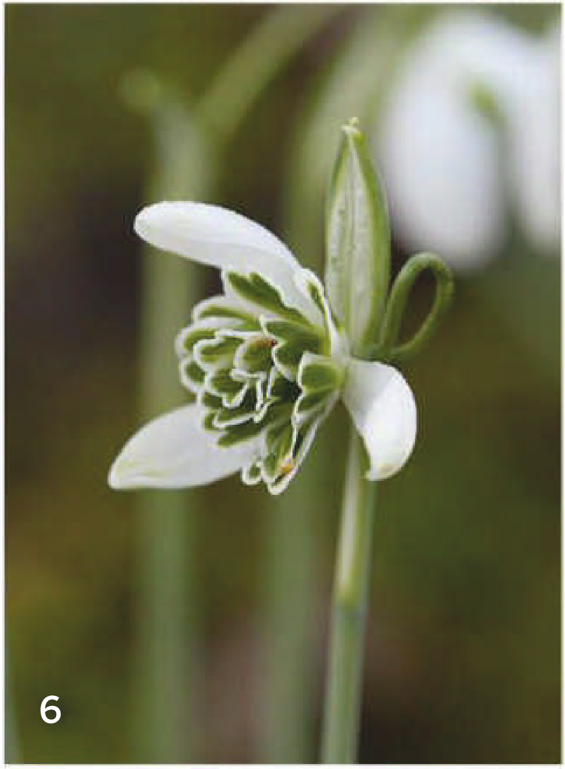
10 *Galanthus* 'Etoile de Neige' The winter days that Olivier and Trudy spend looking at colonies of snowdrops occasionally turn up treasures. This snowdrop was found by Trudy growing near a colony of *Galanthus nivalis* Scharlockii Group and named by her. 15cm.

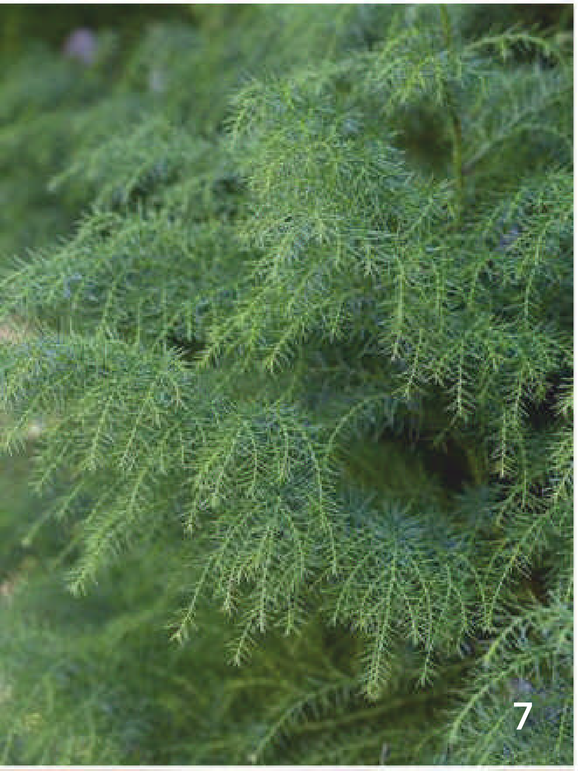
11 *Betula nigra* Heritage (= 'Cully') An unusual birch tree, native to North America that has a copper-coloured bark revealing a creamy trunk beneath. In spring the branches are hung with golden catkins. Eventual height about 15m. RHS H7, USDA 4a-9b.

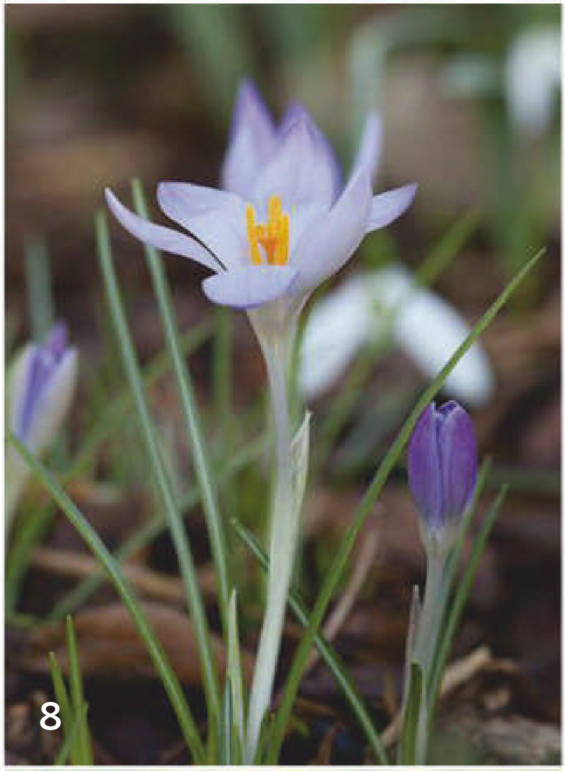
12 *Picea breweriana* Native to North America, this is an evergreen spruce with a weeping habit. Curtains of blue-green leaves cascade from its branches to dramatic effect. A very slow-growing tree that eventually can get to 12m. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 6a-8b.

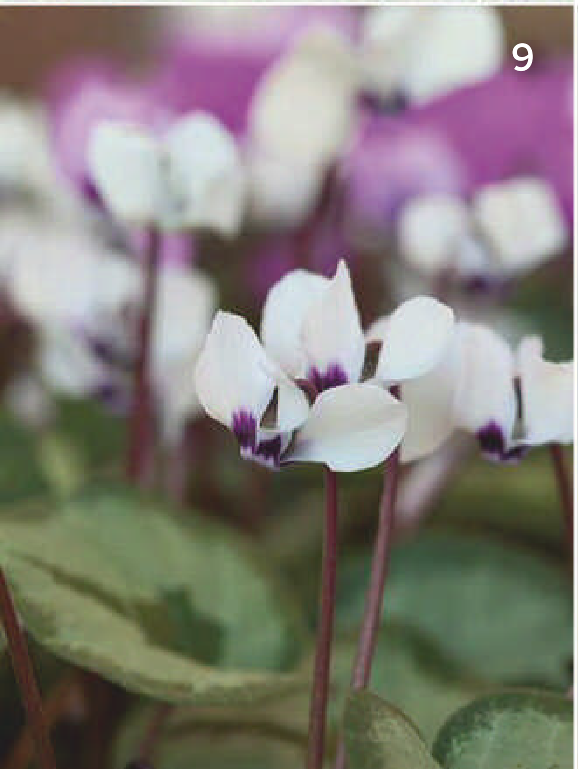
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. [†] Hardiness ratings given where available.

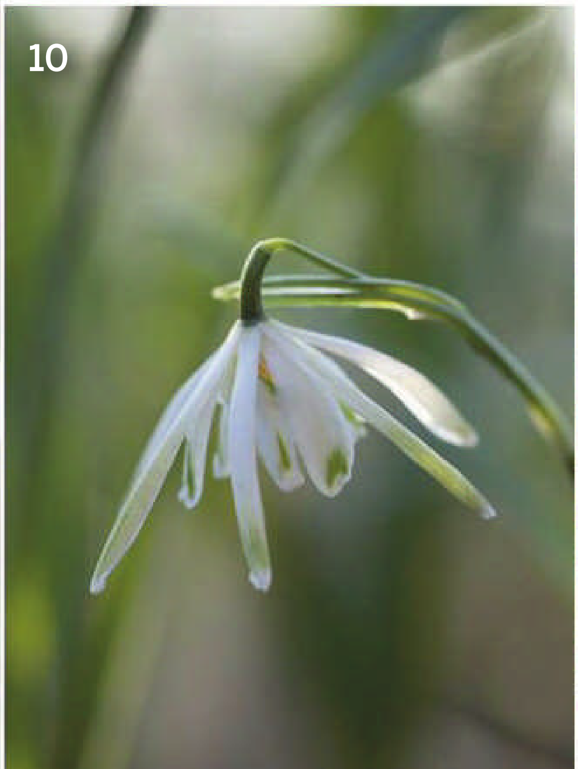

5

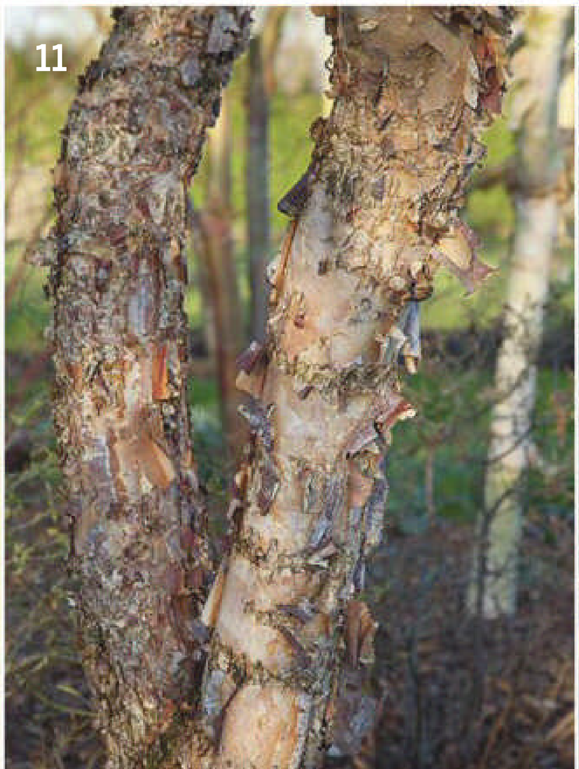

6

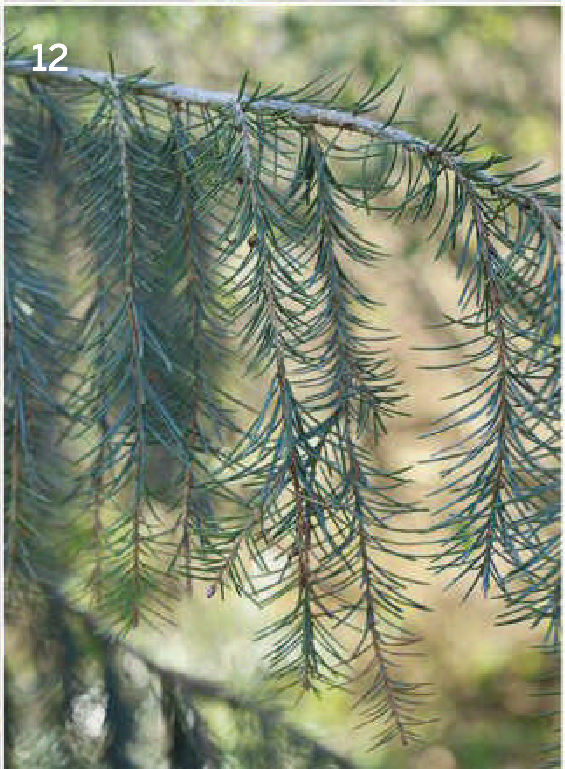

7

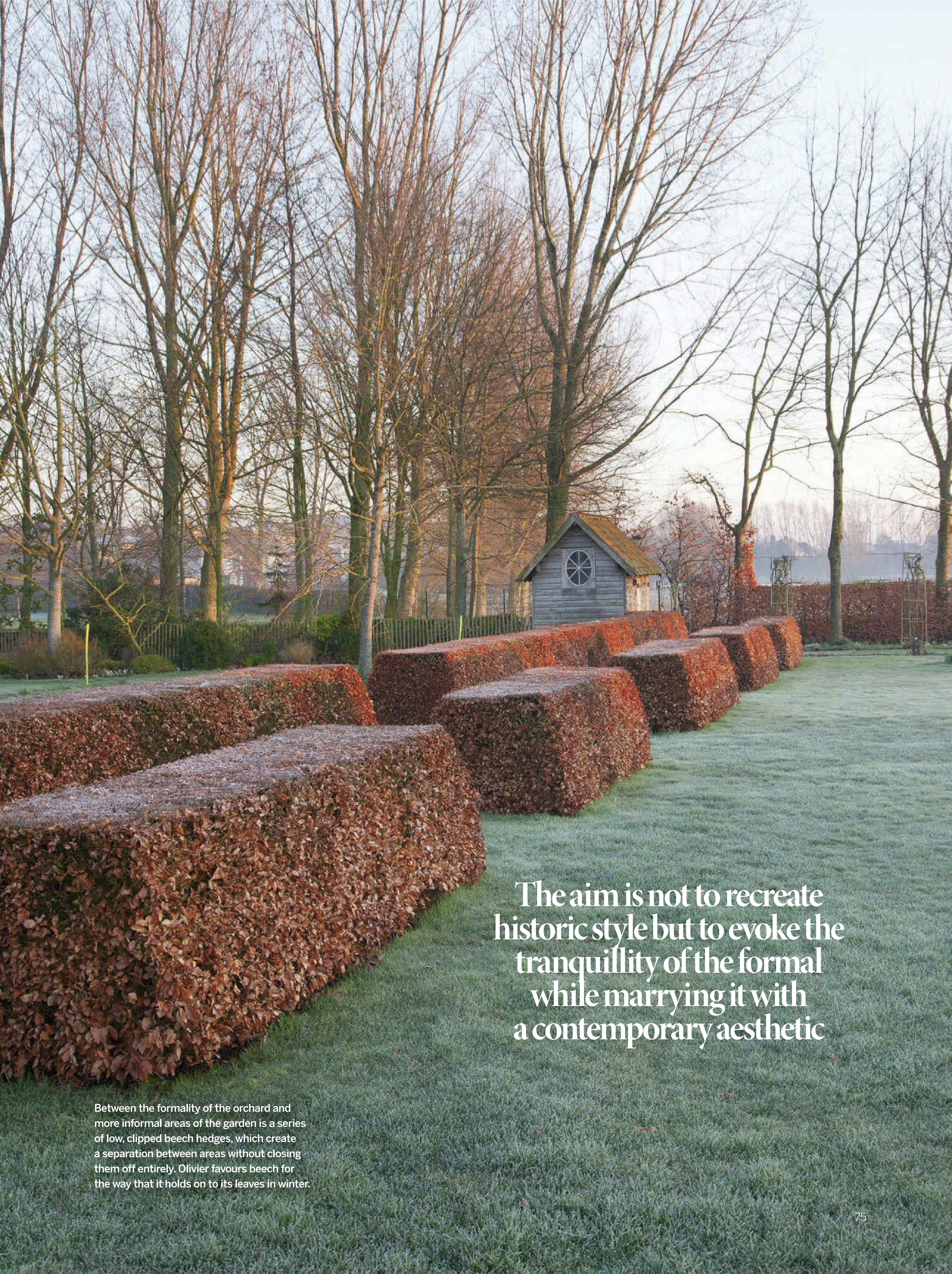

8


9


10

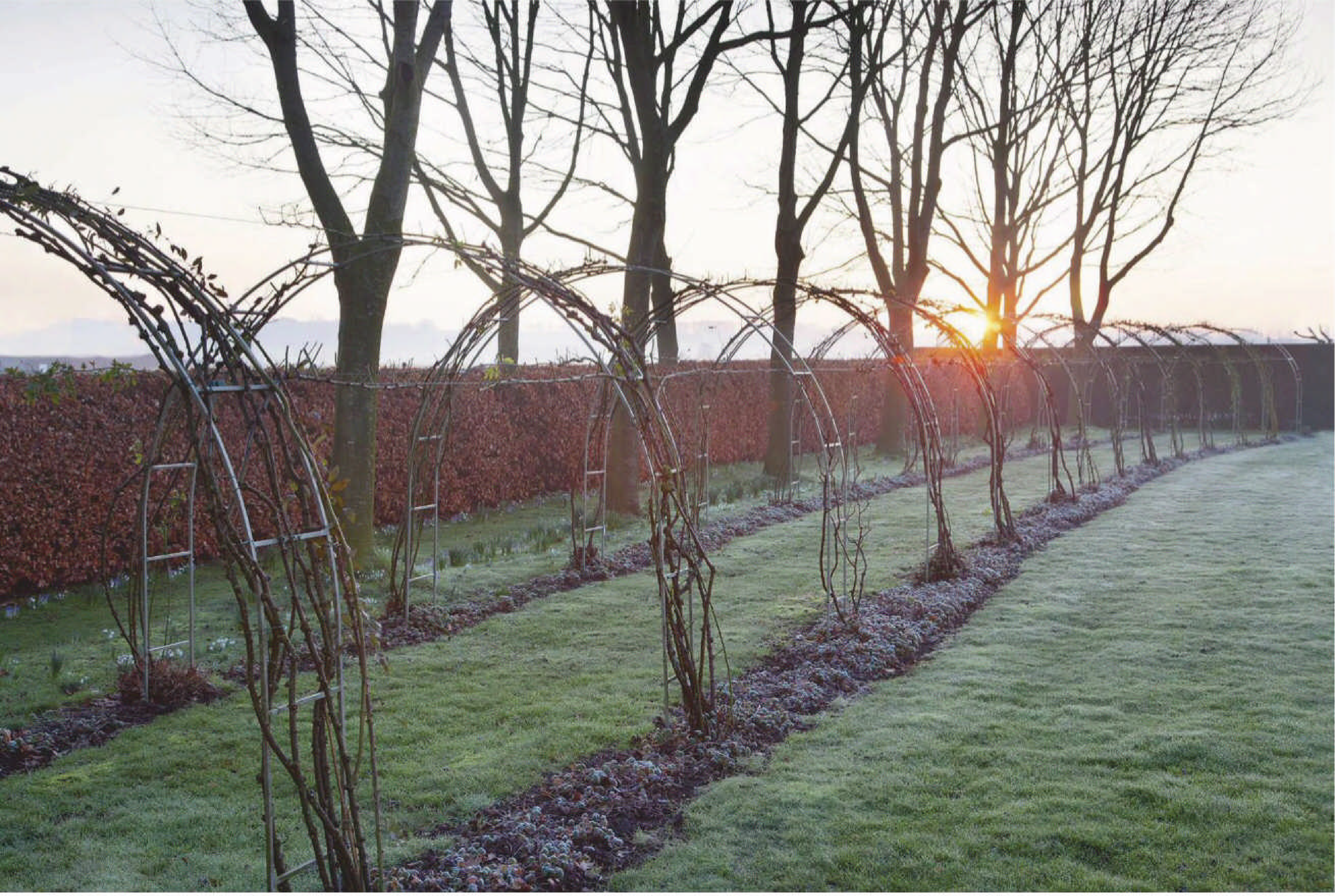

11


12



The aim is not to recreate historic style but to evoke the tranquillity of the formal while marrying it with a contemporary aesthetic

Between the formality of the orchard and more informal areas of the garden is a series of low, clipped beech hedges, which create a separation between areas without closing them off entirely. Olivier favours beech for the way that it holds on to its leaves in winter.



▷ contemporary garden in Normandy, created by Patrick and Sylvie Quibel, they saw that formality and informality can be juxtaposed to create beautiful spaces. The influence of Le Jardin Plume can be seen most clearly in an area containing six large squares of bulbs and perennials surrounding a *miroir d'eau*, a square reflecting pool. The squares are planted mainly for spring interest with thousands of species narcissus, forms of *Narcissus poeticus* and varieties of *Tulipa clusiana*. *Geranium pratense, Gladiolus communis* subsp. *byzantinus* and *Allium sphaerocephalon* take over later in the year.

As at Le Jardin Plume, the aim here has been not to recreate the historic style but rather to reinvent it, to evoke the tranquillity of the formal while marrying it with a contemporary aesthetic and a modern plant palette. The plants in the garden are as important as the design of the space. "For me a well-designed garden is not enough. I need a certain botanical richness and it is important that our plant collections are integrated into the garden," Olivier explains. "This is a relatively small space and once the structural elements – trees, shrubs, hedges – were planted, there was not only less space but also more shade, so I am more and more interested in plants that are adapted to both, like the snowdrops, the cyclamen and the ferns in the wilder areas."

It is in these wilder areas that Olivier has planted collections of birch and witch hazel, underplanted with hellebores, crocuses and, as everywhere else in the garden, snowdrops. Rather than being grown in pots, in the manner of an exhibition, here they are planted in the garden where they can romp around, cross pollinate and, most importantly, bring life and colour for many months of the year.

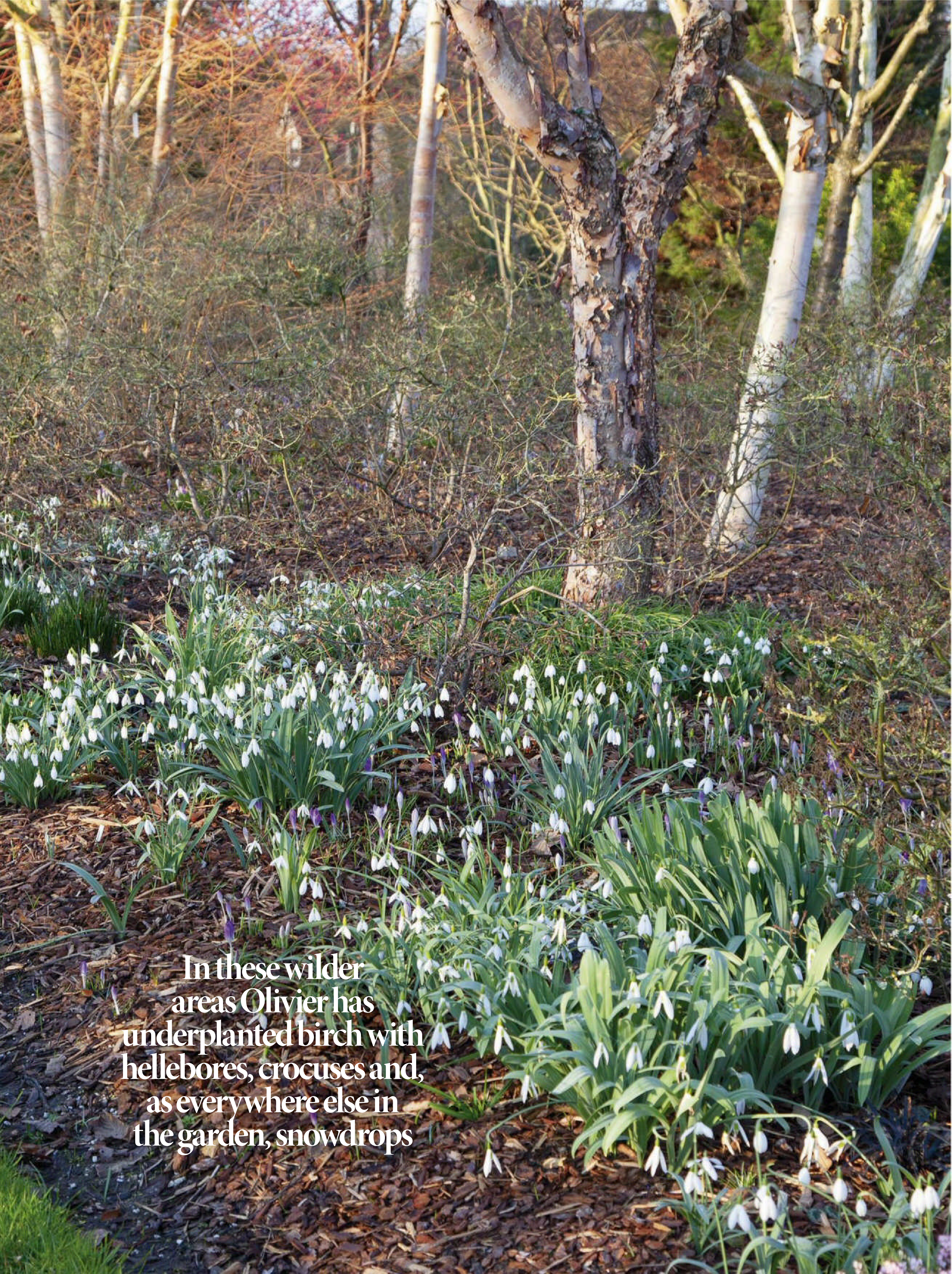
This is a garden for all seasons, but its owners look forward most to seeing it in winter. "A garden of two hectares is a lot of work, particularly in the summer. In the winter there is less to do and so we are able to appreciate the garden more," says Olivier. "As much as we like the vigour and abundance of summer, in winter we can admire the architecture of the garden traced by the hedges and anchored by evergreens, and we have the time to really look at those plants whose winter flowers furnish the space. Winter is when the whole garden is here, when everything comes together." □

Above A series of 15 metal arches, clothed with climbing roses, stretches alongside a perimeter hedge. Linking them on both sides is an underplanting of *Geranium macrorrhizum*, which in mild winters is evergreen. The job of pruning the roses is usually done in the lull between Christmas and New Year.

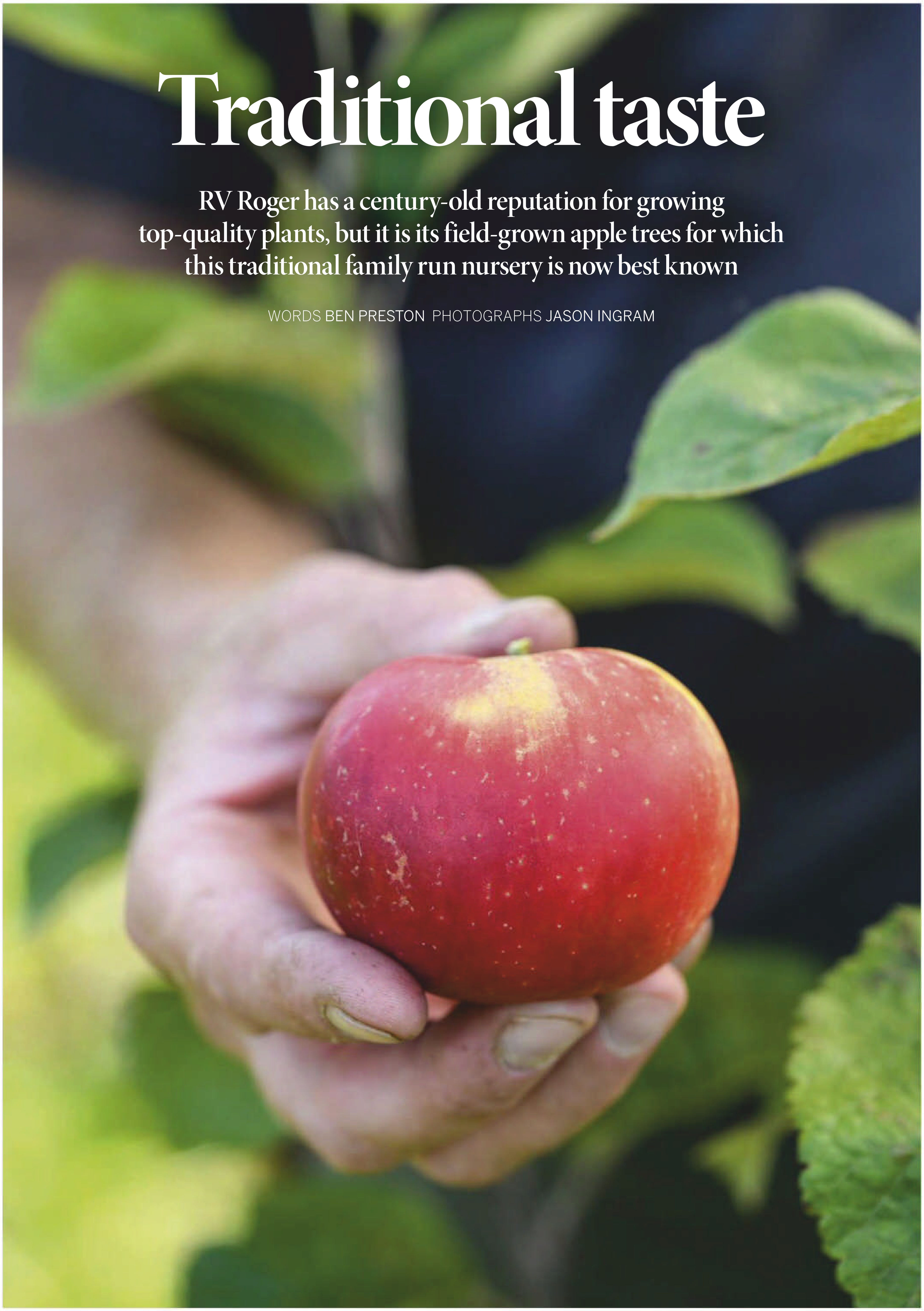
Facing page Clumps of snowdrops thrive under a specimen of *Betula nigra* Heritage (= 'Cully'). Snowdrops are not just a flower of early spring and in this garden there are specimens in flower for six months, starting in autumn with forms of *Galanthus reginae-olgae* and finishing with the last of the *Galanthus nivalis*.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Ooievaarsnest 11, 8510 Kortrijk, Belgium. **Web** domaineduooievaar.be **Open** Most years in June as part of Jardins Ouverts de Belgique, and by appointment for groups of 10-30 people.



In these wilder areas Olivier has underplanted birch with hellebores, crocuses and, as everywhere else in the garden, snowdrops



Traditional taste

RV Roger has a century-old reputation for growing top-quality plants, but it is its field-grown apple trees for which this traditional family run nursery is now best known

WORDS BEN PRESTON PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM

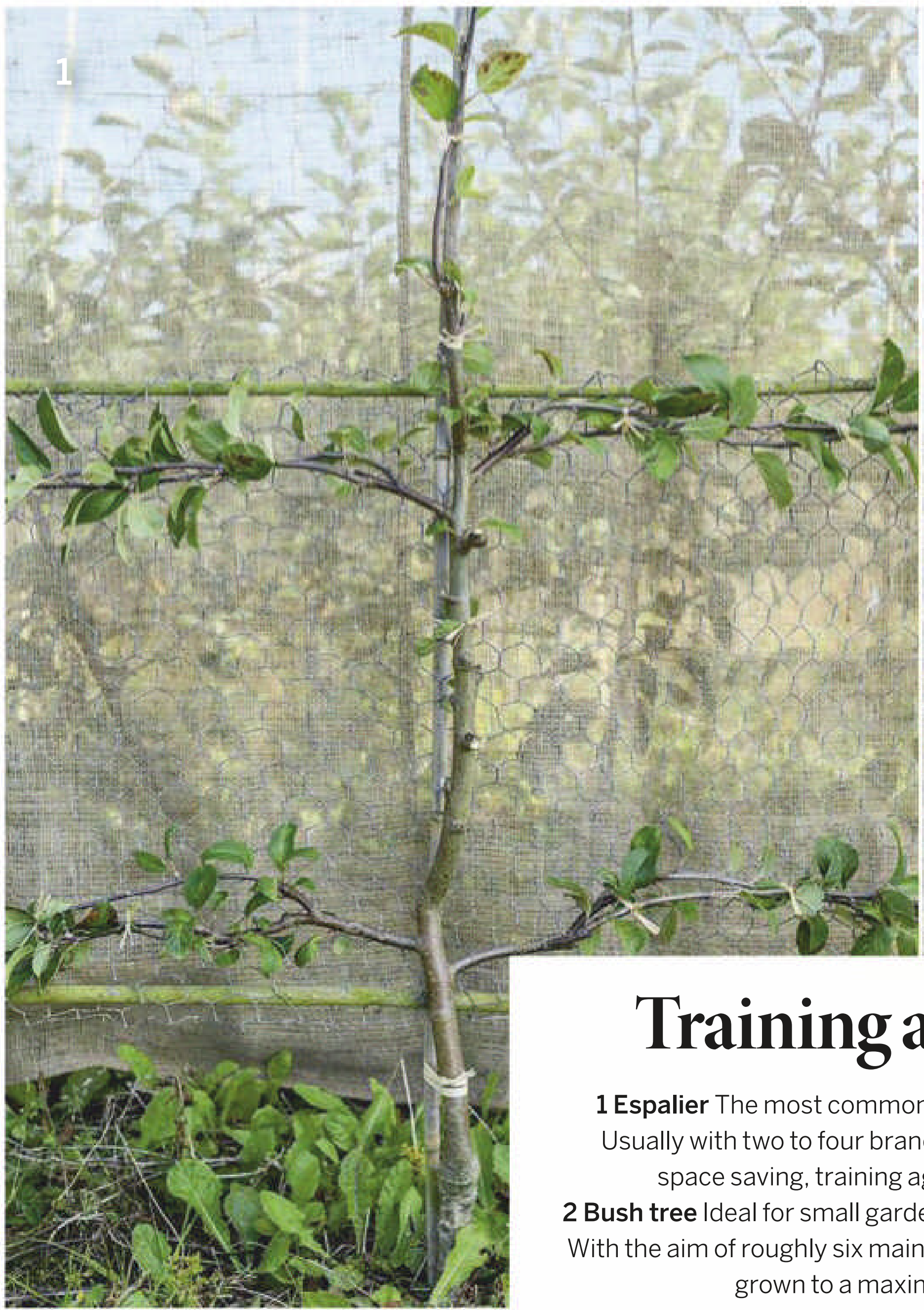
Royston Valentine Roger started with a modest half acre near Pickering in Yorkshire in 1913. He began growing alpines that could be cultivated to a saleable size in just three months, to get the business off the ground. More than 100 years on, RV Roger is now a third-generation family-run nursery, growing over 450 varieties of field-grown top fruit with many other strings to its bow, including field-grown roses, extensive bulb collection and a nursery. But in the north of England, the nursery is best known for its magnificent, gold medal-winning, tiered apple displays at the Harrogate Flower Show, showcasing its extensive range of more than 240 heritage and modern cultivars. This has not always been the case, through its history it has specialised in different areas, adapting to the horticultural requirements and the needs of the country – from ornamental trees in the 1920s and 1930s, through fruit trees in the Dig for Victory war efforts, to roses, growing up to 240,00 every year by the 1960s.

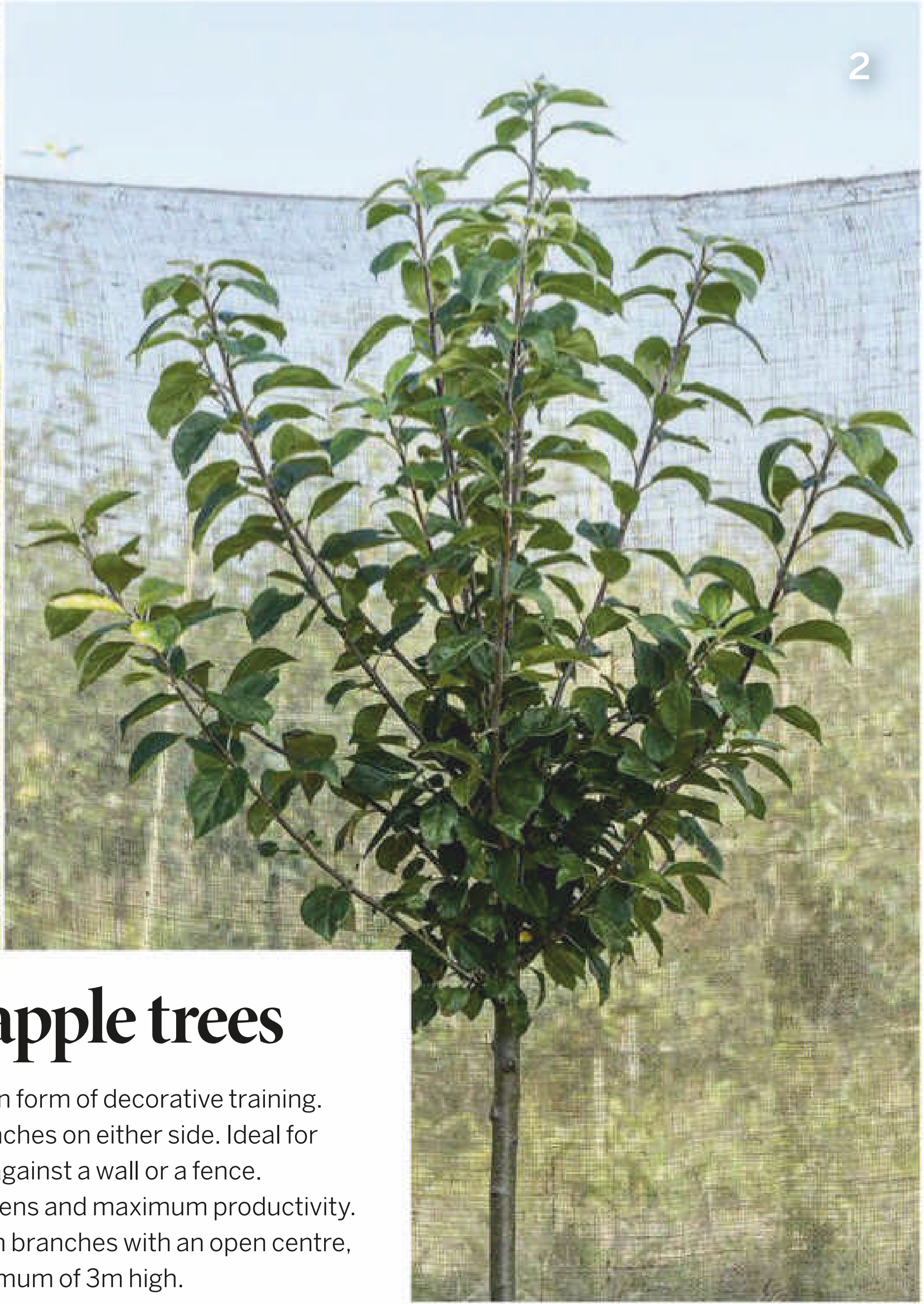
Today, the farm and nursery extends to 200 acres and with 70-80 acres cultivated with field-grown stock at any one time, in a complex rotation system encompassing; traditional farming, and fruit trees. Ian Roger, managing director and grandson of the founder, leads a passionate team of 20, who use traditional horticultural and land management techniques passed down through three generations. “Many of our team, like me, have worked alongside their fathers and grandfathers within the nursery and have horticulture in their blood,” says Ian with some pride.

Tradition is important to RV Roger, but not to the point of sentimentality, especially when it comes to selecting the apple cultivars it grows. “Just because an apple variety has been grown for 200 years doesn’t mean it’s a good apple,” says David Patch, RV Roger’s nurseryman. “We are not a preservation society, every single apple we grow has its own qualities and uses, from early cider apples to late dessert apples.” This pragmatic approach is applied to every part of the nursery, from the techniques it uses in the field to the care and attention it takes in the packing shed. Every espalier and cordon is expertly hand wrapped, ensuring delicate branches are protected during transit. ▷

Facing page A *Malus domestica* ‘Discovery’ from the fields of RV Roger. This popular cultivar, which originates from Essex in 1949, has exceptional crisp, white juicy flesh.

Field-grown fruit, specifically apples, has become RV Roger’s main area of expertise at its North Yorkshire nursery. Here field manager, Martin Cook undertakes summer pruning of half-standard trained trees.





Training apple trees

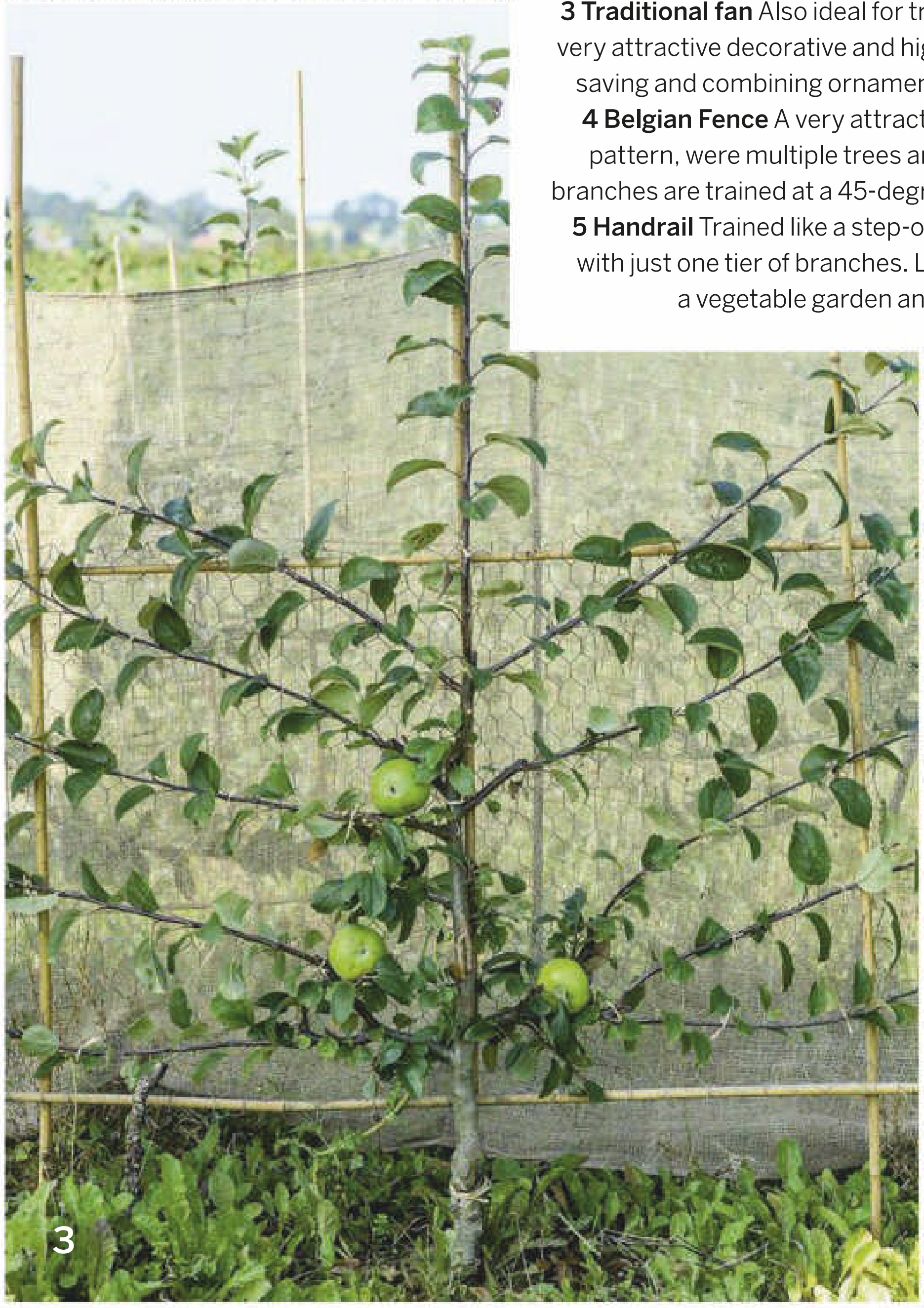
1 Espalier The most common form of decorative training. Usually with two to four branches on either side. Ideal for space saving, training against a wall or a fence.

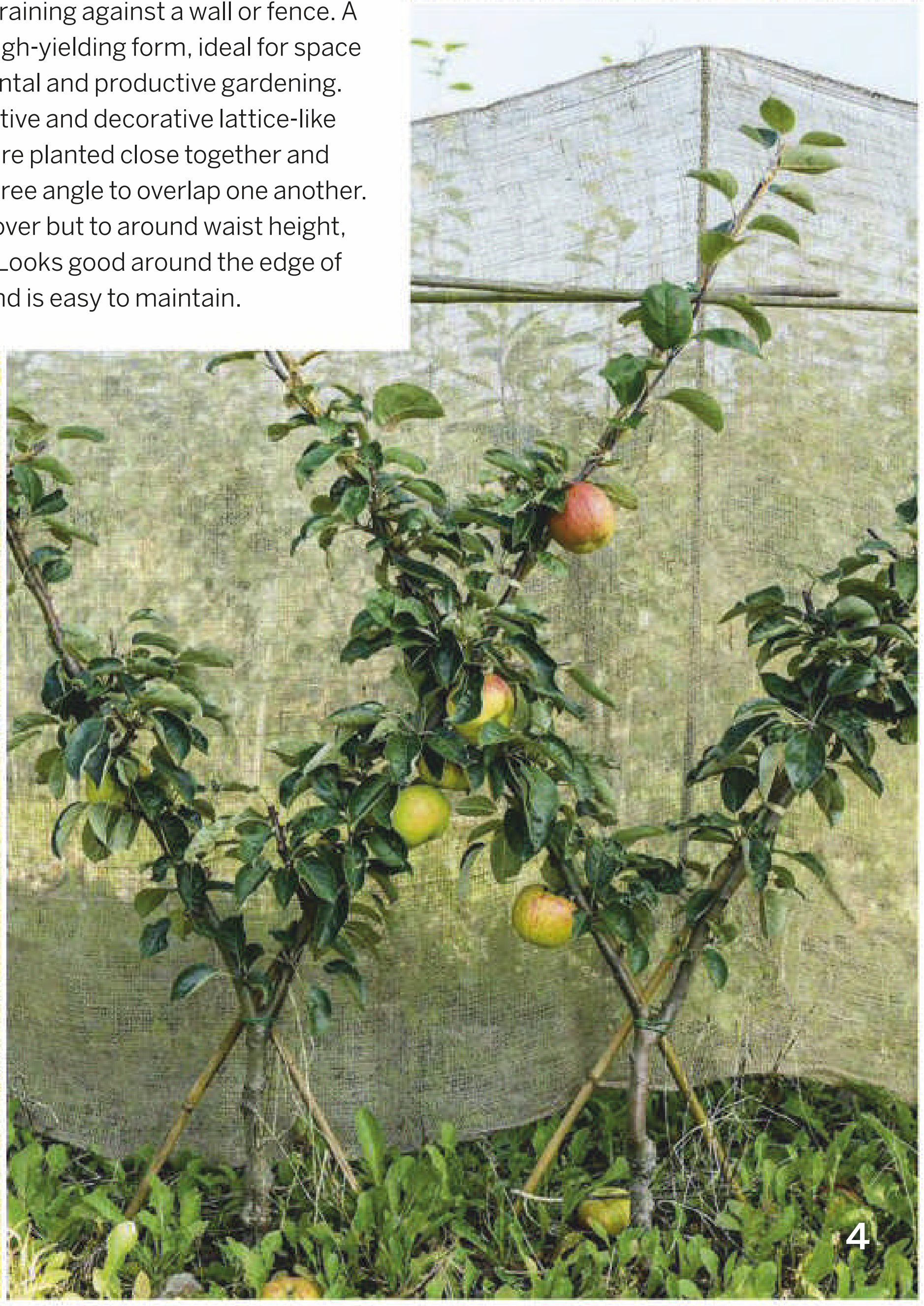
2 Bush tree Ideal for small gardens and maximum productivity. With the aim of roughly six main branches with an open centre, grown to a maximum of 3m high.

3 Traditional fan Also ideal for training against a wall or fence. A very attractive decorative and high-yielding form, ideal for space saving and combining ornamental and productive gardening.

4 Belgian Fence A very attractive and decorative lattice-like pattern, were multiple trees are planted close together and branches are trained at a 45-degree angle to overlap one another.

5 Handrail Trained like a step-over but to around waist height, with just one tier of branches. Looks good around the edge of a vegetable garden and is easy to maintain.





▷ Out in the fields propagation of new fruit trees begins with the planting of root stocks in late winter, followed by bud grafting in July. This yields a 90-95 per cent success rate and any rootstock with a failed bud graft will be re-grafted using the traditional whip-and-tongue technique the following March. This process produces a field-grown maiden (a single stem young fruit tree roughly 1-2m), ready for bareroot sale in November, a 16-month process from graft to sale.

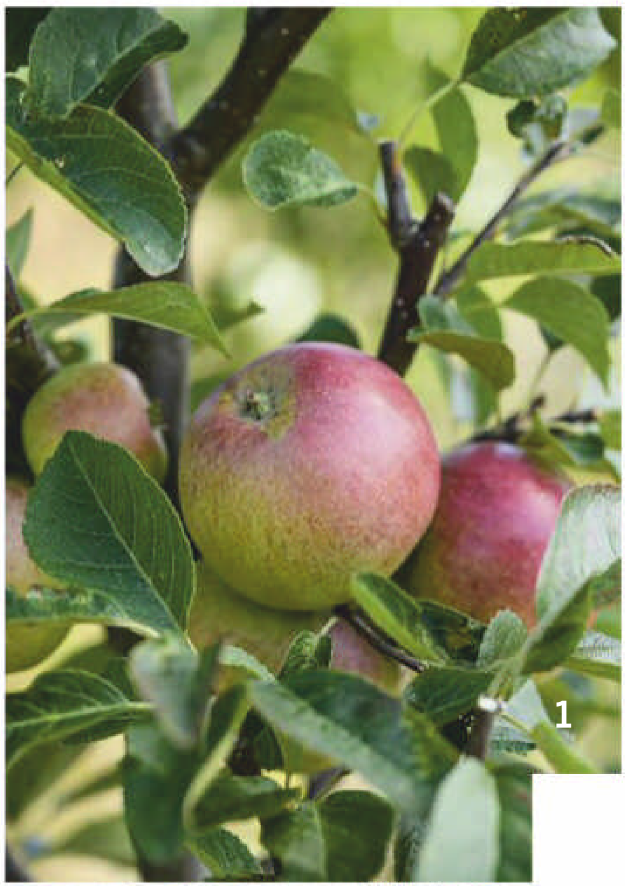
What sets the nursery apart for gardeners, however, is the huge range both in the number of cultivars and trained forms it offers. At first, this vast selection seems quite overwhelming, but the knowledge and guidance provided by the team will help you select and plan, whether you're planting a heritage orchard or choosing trained specimens (see box on facing page) for a small ornamental garden. Walking between row after row of meticulously trained trees, from simple cordons to more complex Belgium fences, you get a real idea of the scale of the operation and can't help but be inspired by the beautiful ways in which fruit trees can be grown for ornamental structure as well as productivity.

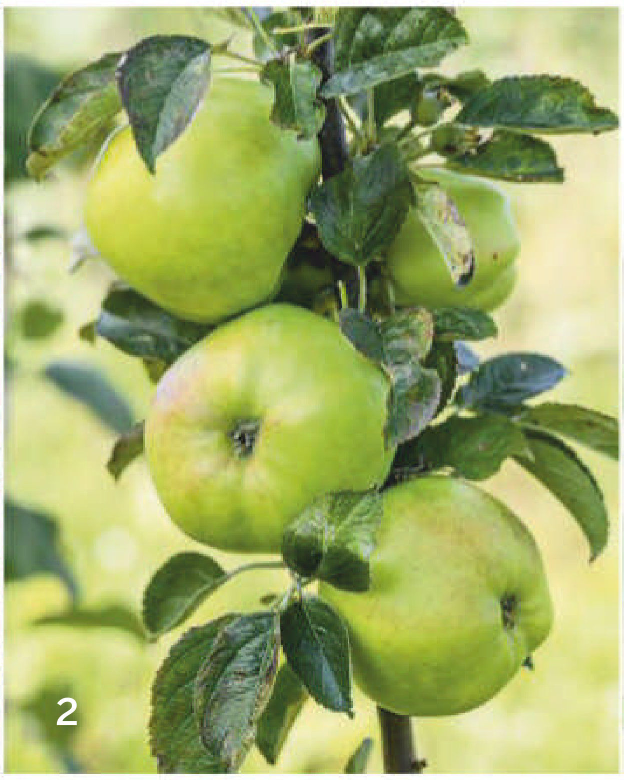
All the trees produced are field grown and lifted specifically to order. The major advantage to this process is in the root development; by allowing the root system to develop an association with the soil rather than in a pot helps to form a more robust and vigorous tree that once transplanted will establish well and yield plentiful fruit. The hardiness and frost tolerance of each cultivar can also vary greatly, often depending on the origin of the cultivar. Many bred in the south of England will not crop as prolifically in the colder regions of the north, but these trees have northern grit, and thankfully many of the cultivars grown here have been introduced from as far north as Edinburgh. □

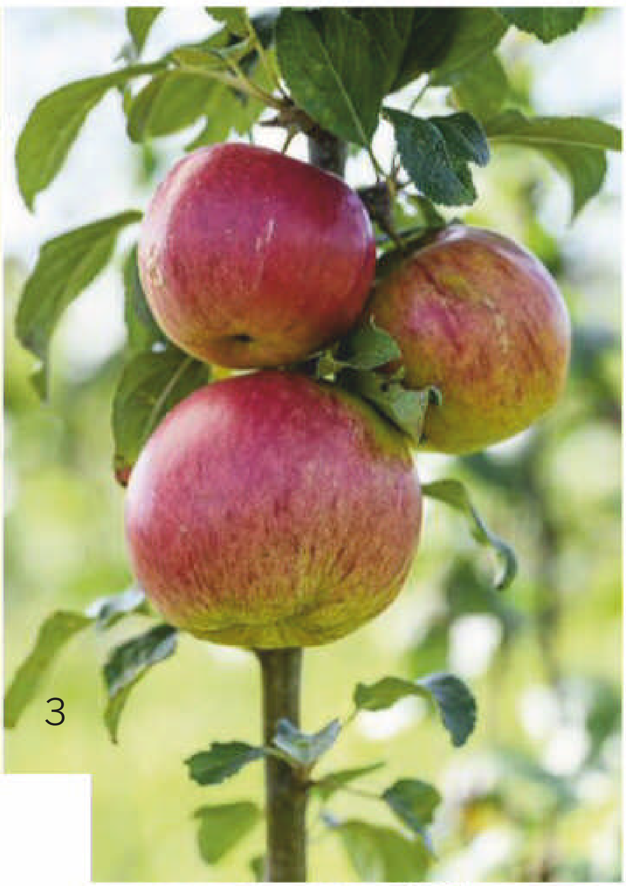
Turn the page for 16 key apples

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Malton Road, Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 7JW. **Tel** 01751 472226. **Web** rvroger.co.uk
Open Monday to Saturday, 8am-5pm; Sunday 10am-4pm. Also offers mail order.


1


2


3

16 key apples

1 ***Malus domestica*** **'Laxton's Superb'** A heavy-cropping dessert apple that has a superb sweet flavour with crisp, white flesh. Resistant to frost. RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b[†]

2 ***Malus domestica*** **'Lord Derby'** A prolific, culinary apple with bright-green fruit that holds its colour when cooked. Very hardy, suitable for wet soils and scab resistant.

3 ***Malus domestica*** **'Laxton's Fortune'** Sweet and aromatic dessert apple, with medium-sized, yellow-flushed-red fruit. Has good frost resistance and is a heavy cropper. AGM*.

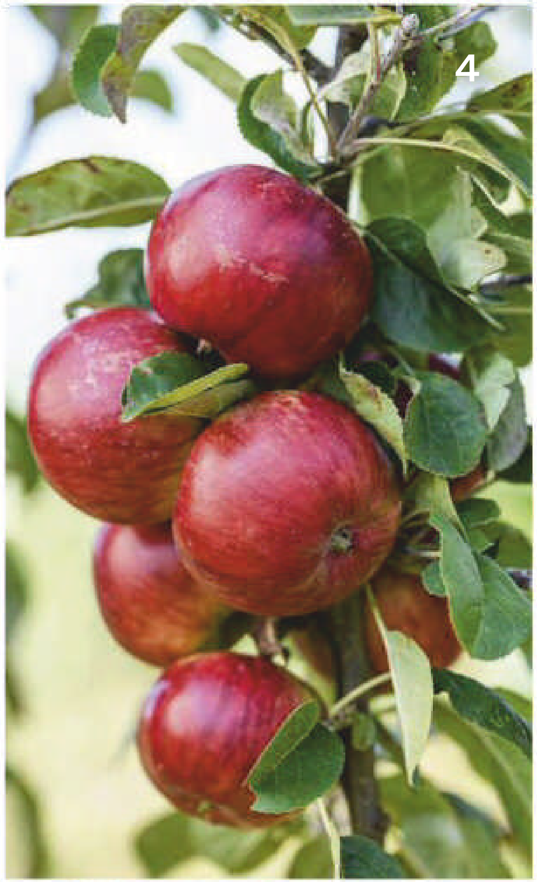
4 ***Malus domestica*** **'Thomas Jeffrey'** A glossy red, striped dessert apple that originated in Edinburgh in 1923. Noted for its firm and sharp flavour. Good for cider production.

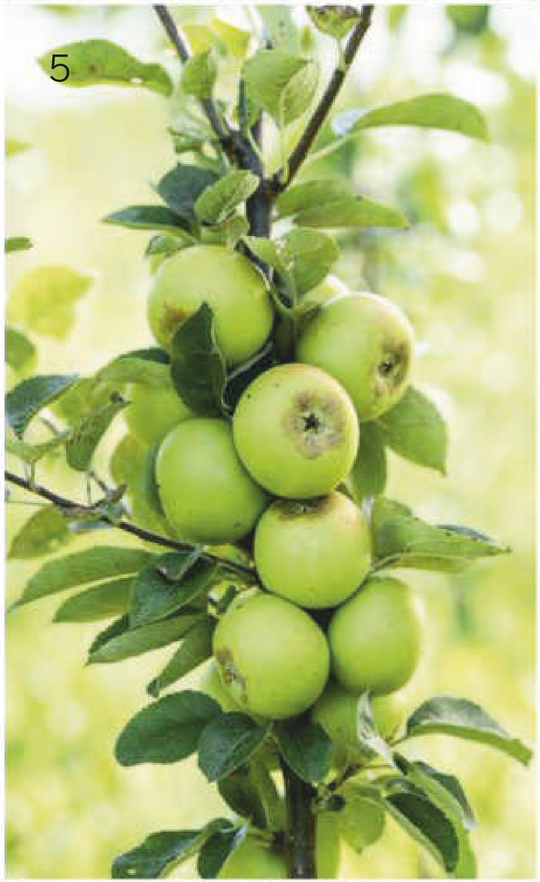
5 ***Malus domestica*** **'Golden Pippin'** A very old cultivar, first recorded in 1629. A useful dual-purpose apple with small, golden-yellow fruit. Intense, sweet and lemony flavour.

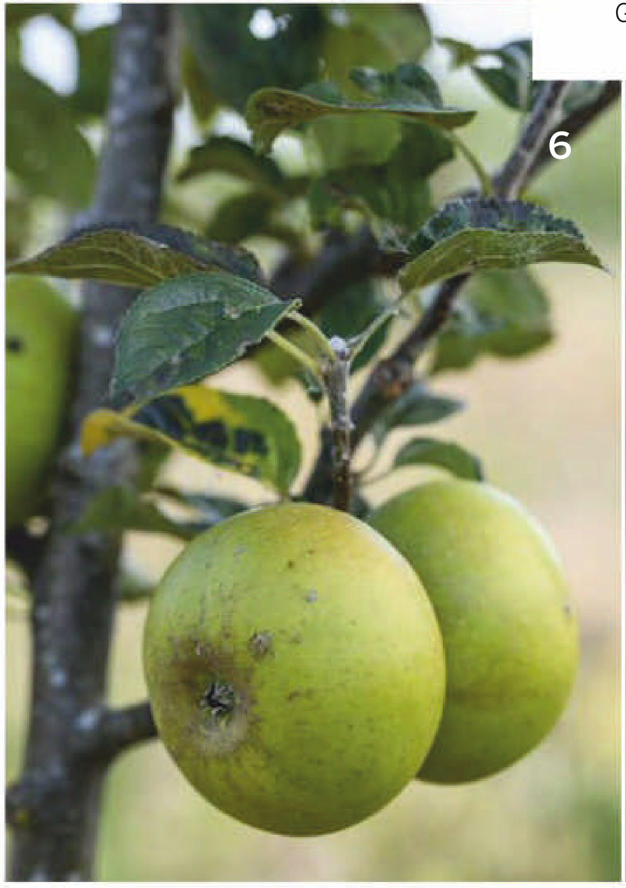
6 ***Malus domestica*** **'Duke of Devonshire'** A medium-sized, golden-green dessert apple. Flat in appearance with an intense flavour that is both sweet and sharp.

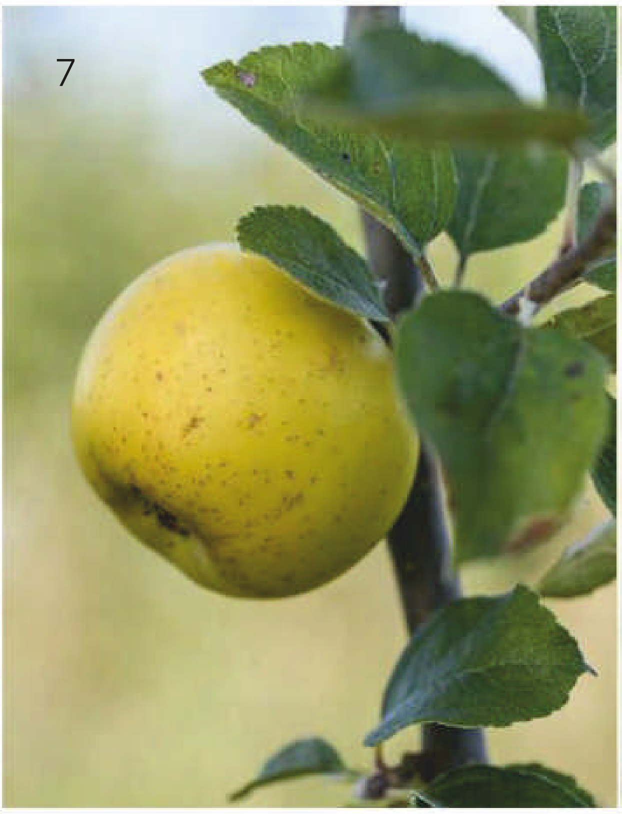
7 ***Malus domestica*** **'Yellow Ingestre'** A late-season dessert apple. Its small, yellow-skinned fruit have a good flavour that is sharp but also sweet.

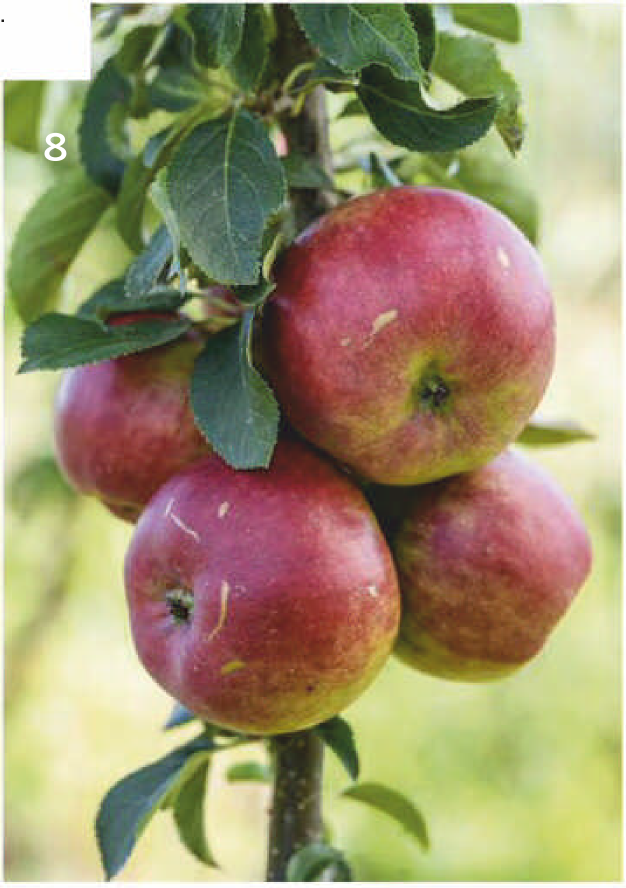
8 ***Malus domestica*** **'Rajka'** An attractive dessert apple from the Czech Republic with round fruits, crisp flesh and juicy. Good disease resistance. Perfect for organic cultivation.

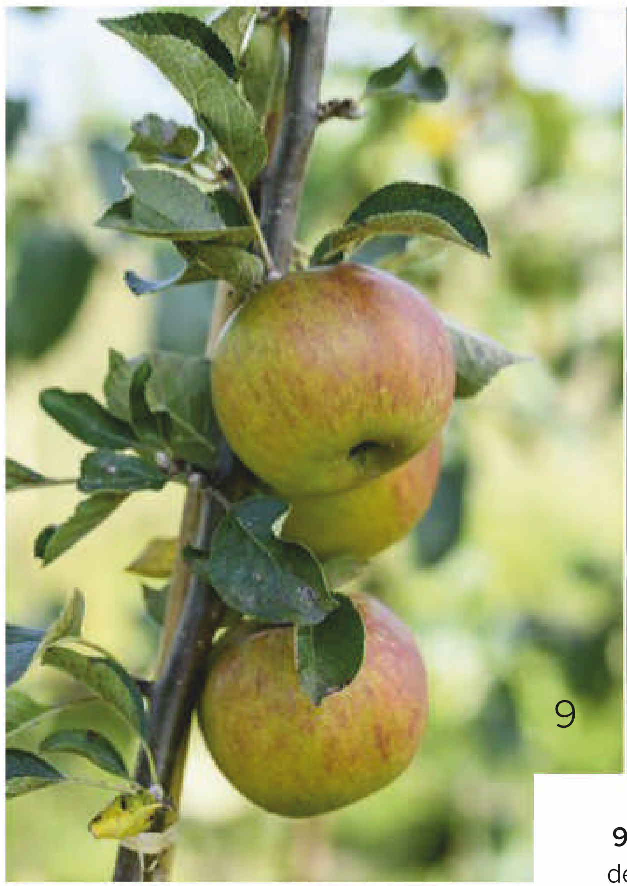

4

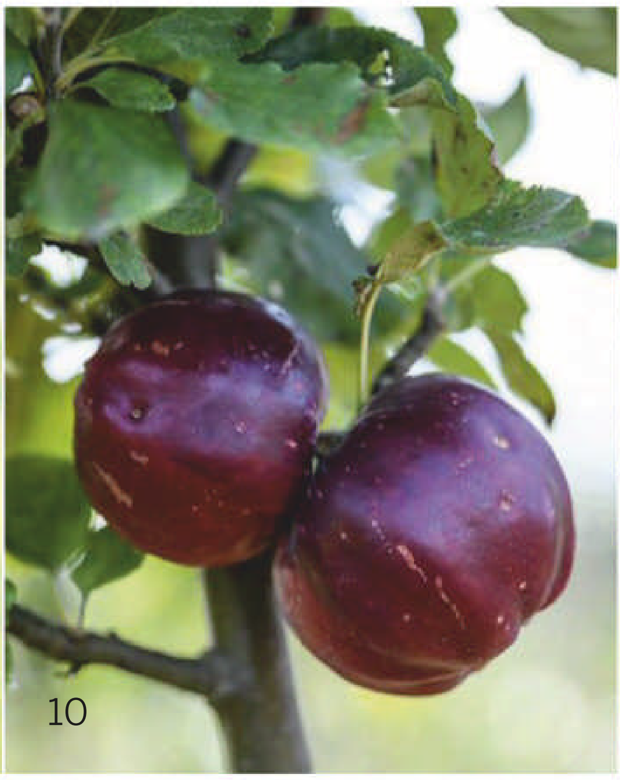

5

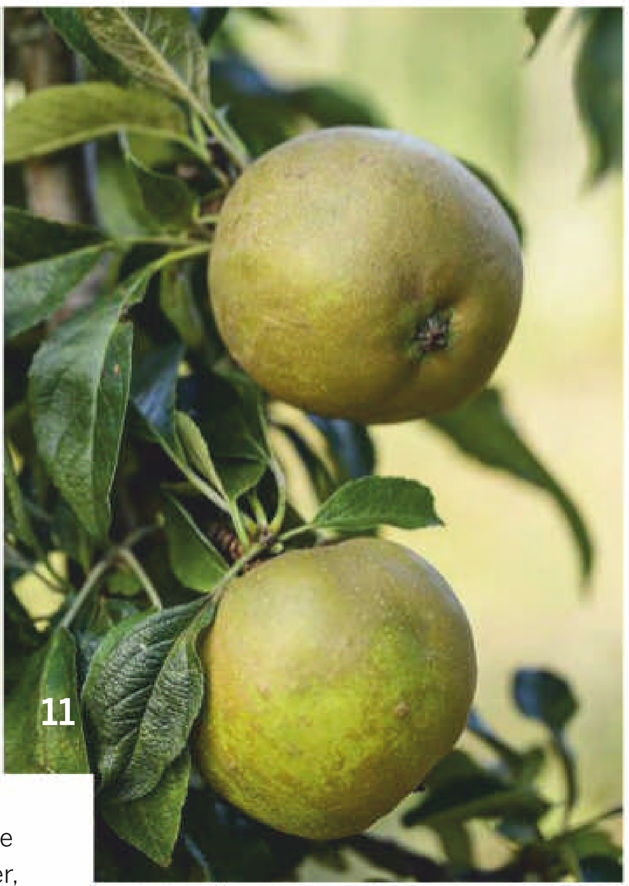

6

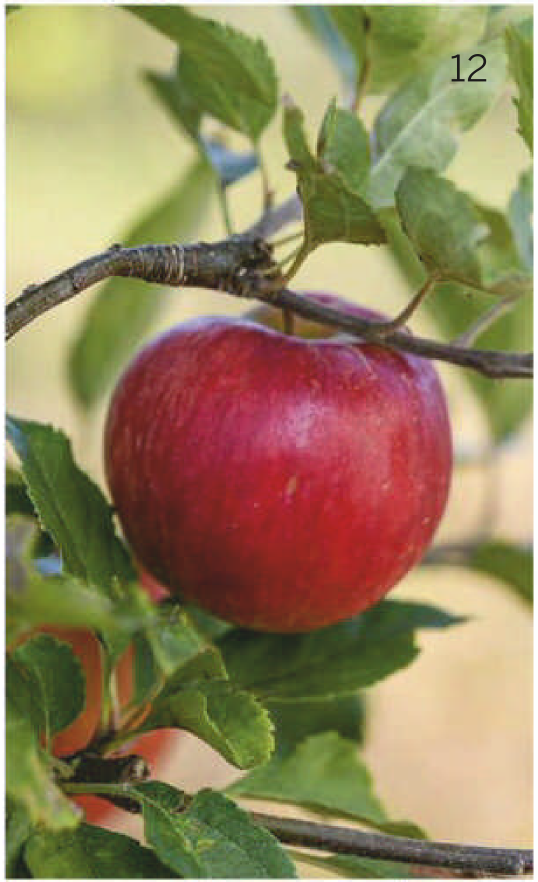

7

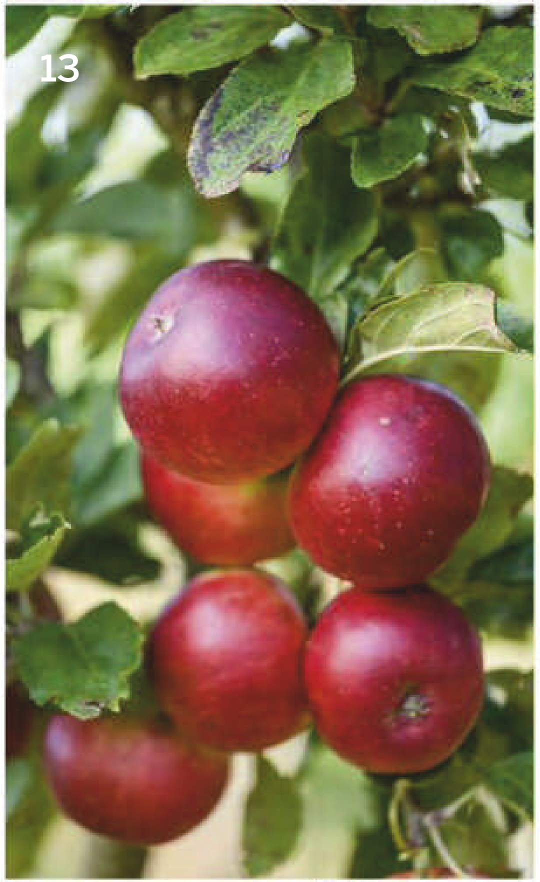

8


9


10


11


12


13

9 *Malus domestica* 'Ribston Pippin' A classic Yorkshire dessert apple. Excellent, quality fruit and prolific cropper, with firm and juicy flesh. Grows well in the north. AGM.

10 *Malus domestica* 'Bloody Ploughman' One of the most attractive dessert apples, with heavy, shiny, deep-red fruit. Sweet, crisp and juicy flesh.

11 *Malus domestica* 'Brownlee's Russet' A late dessert apple that can be stored long after Christmas. Aromatic and intense, sharp but sweet fruit.

12 *Malus domestica* 'Worcester Pearmain' A dessert apple, ready as early as August. A medium-sized, red fruit that crops reliably every year. Good frost resistance. AGM.

13 *Malus domestica* 'Scrumptious' A flavoursome dessert apple, one of the best early season croppers. Thin skinned and sweet fruit that is loved by children. AGM.

14 *Malus domestica* 'Sunset' A tasty dessert apple with firm and juicy fruit. A good northern replacement for 'Cox's Orange Pippin'. Resistant to frost and a good cropper. AGM.

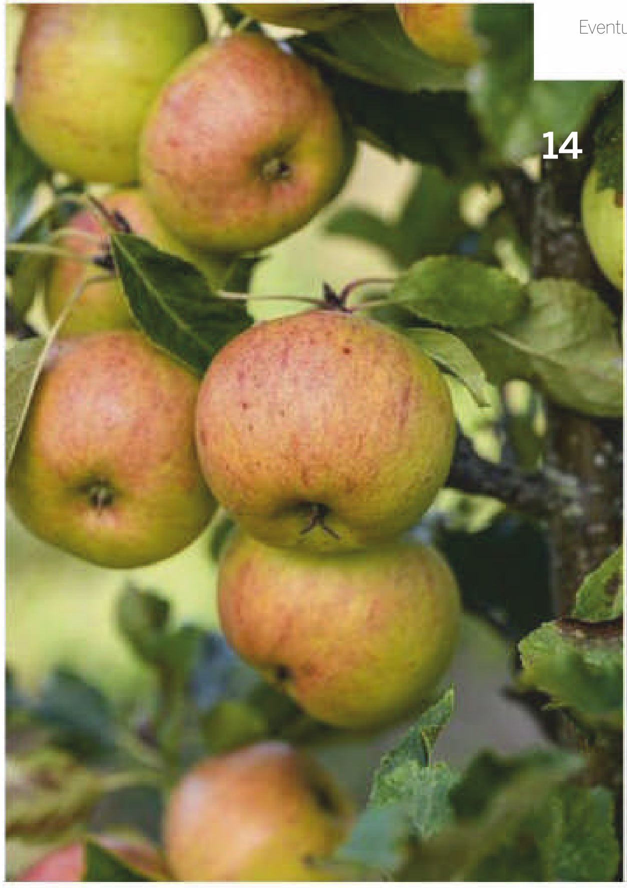
15 *Malus domestica* 'Newton Wonder' A good dual-purpose apple. Bears large fruit and releases a sweet aroma with good flavour when cooked. Resistant to late frosts.

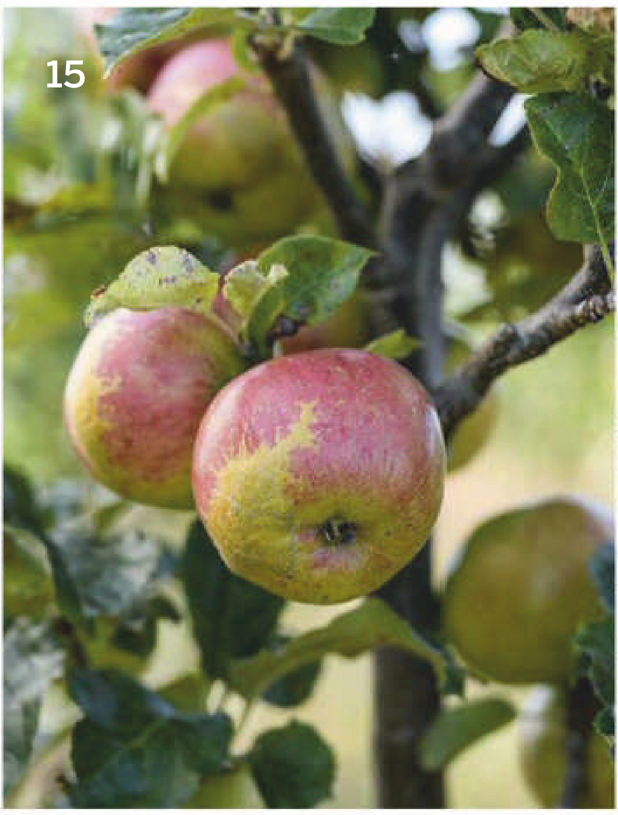
16 *Malus domestica* 'Golden Spire' A very useful dual-purpose apple, with yellow, conical-shaped fruit. Good for cider, apple sauce and has striking blossom in the spring.

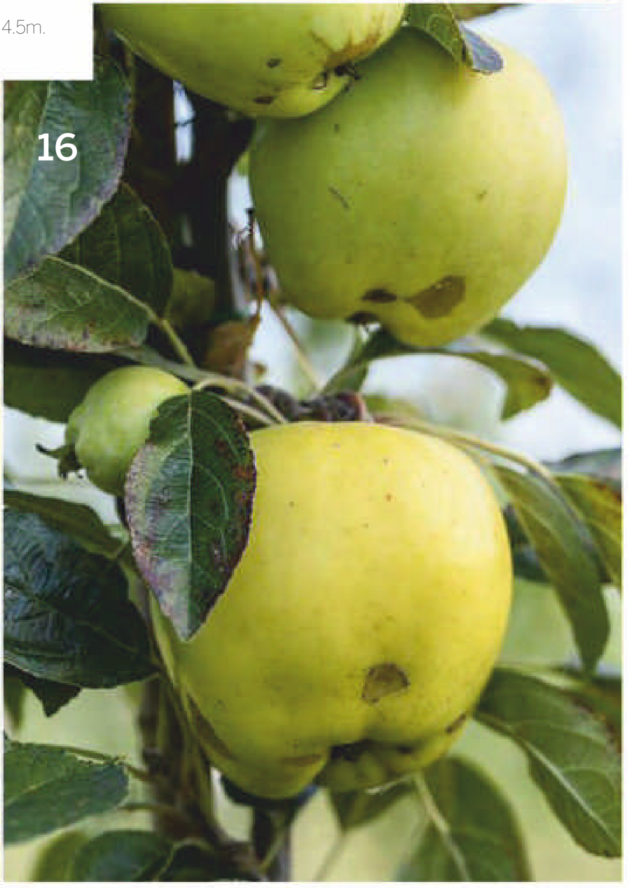
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.

†Most apple trees have a hardiness rating of RHS H6, USDA 5a 8b.

Eventual height of all will depend on the rootstock selected, but most range from 1.8m to 4.5m.


14

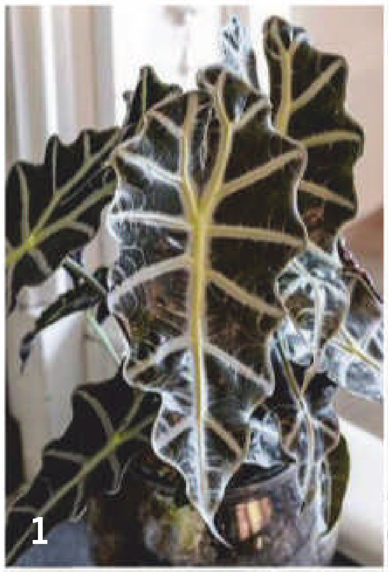

15

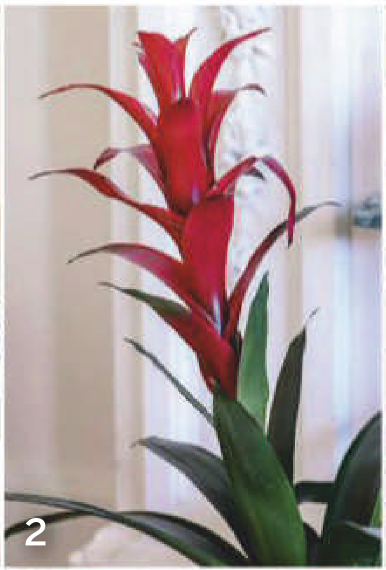

16

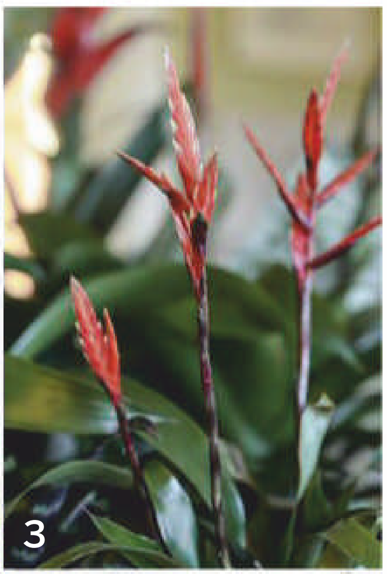
HEART OF THE HOME

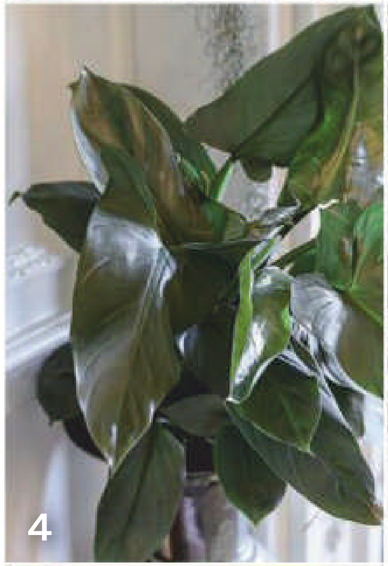
A fireplace is often a focal point for a room, and can always be improved by a plant or two. Matthew Reese shows how best to arrange plants, whether adding interest to an empty hearth or bringing a mantelpiece to life

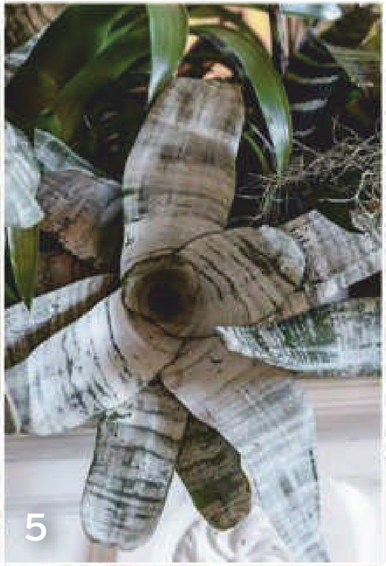
WORDS MATTHEW REESE PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM

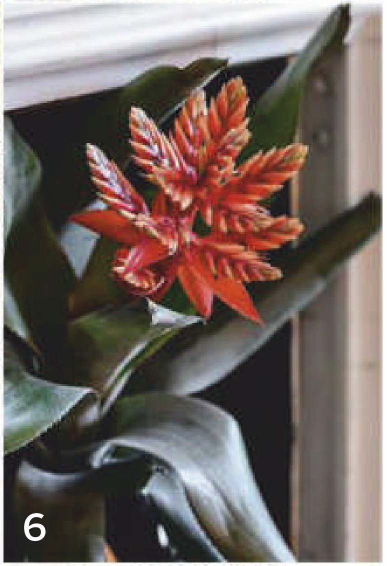

1

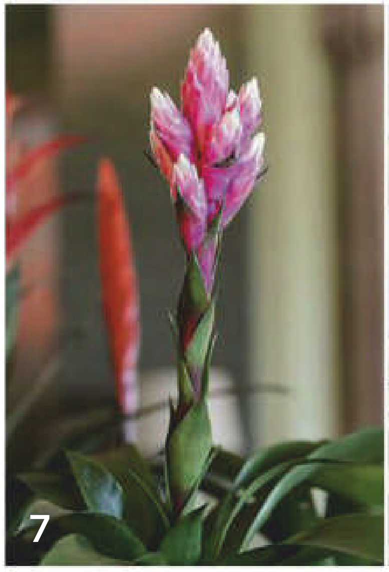

2

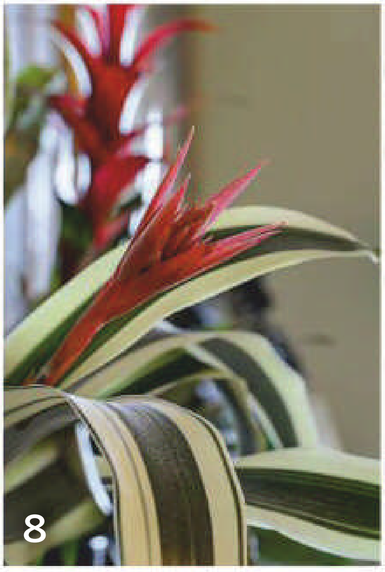

3

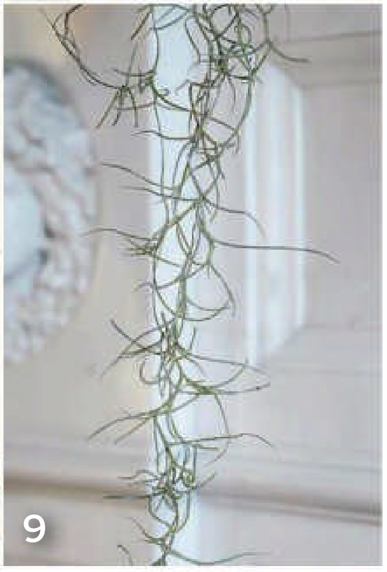

4


5


6


7


8


9

Fireplaces are often the focal point in a room and lend themselves to bold decoration. If a fire is to be lit, we drape swags of cut flowers and foliage over the mantelpiece as very few plants will survive the updraft of heat from the flames. But, when fires are not lit, they look lovely adorned with plants.

The brilliant colours and striking shapes of the winter-flowering bromeliads bestow a wonderful, tropical swagger on the room. The larger, more tropical leaves of the aroids add contrast to the whorls of bromeliad foliage and continue the exotic theme. The plants are mostly housed in heavy porcelain and glass vases that help to counterbalance the top-heavy bromeliads, which often have very limited root systems. We have also introduced *Aechmea fasciata* and *Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish moss) to the display, both of which can be grown as air plants in the conservatory.

Arranging plants on the mantelpiece in a linear fashion can make the display look quite lacklustre. For a more interesting presentation, use plants of varying proportions in different size pots, and place them off-kilter so they do not all line up like soldiers. Here we have tucked the air plants in between the pots to link the display and make it look more luxuriant. Adjust the plants so the foliage laps over the edge of the mantelpiece to create a more comfortable and natural-feeling arrangement, and position plants in the fire grate to complete the composition.

Bromeliads are easy to grow, and provided they receive a daily misting and do not get too cold, they will last for weeks in the house. We repair the plants back to the conservatory when they need a refresh. Eventually, the flowering rosettes will die and a new generation of offsets will be produced. □

Plants

1 *Alocasia* x *amazonica* 'Polly'
A tuberous, tropical perennial. Its large, shield-like, dark-green leaves have striking white veins and maroon undersides. Prefers a moist, rich compost, warm atmosphere and indirect sunlight. 45cm. RHS H1A[†].

2 *Guzmania* 'Rostara'
This wonderful bromeliad spouts a candelabra composed of bright-red bracts that arise from the centre of leafy rosettes. Makes an ideal house plant with regular misting. 50cm. RHS H1A, USDA 10a-12b.

3 *Vriesea* 'Elan'
This bromeliad forms rosettes of soft-green foliage from which it throws up flattened, branching flower spikes in flame red. These produce smaller flowers. It needs humid, tropical conditions. 40cm. RHS H1A.

4 *Philodendron* x *domesticum*
This cultivated hybrid of *Philodendron hastatum* is a clambering *Philodendron* grown for its attractive silver-green foliage, hence its common name of silver sword. 2m. RHS H1A, USDA 10a-12b.

5 *Aechmea fasciata*
An epiphyte from the rainforest canopy of Brazil, it makes vase-shaped rosettes of stiff, grey and white banded, blunt leaves and has candy-pink flower spikes with pale-blue flowers. 90cm. RHS H1B, USDA 10a-11b.

6 *Aechmea* 'Pepita Elegant Flames'
From a central spike, this epiphyte produces spectacular bright-red inflorescences with yellow flowers on the tips. Does best in warm shady conditions. 40cm. RHS H1A.

7 *Guzmania* 'Candy'
This epiphytic bromeliad forms lax rosettes of thin, glossy green foliage from the centre of which rise pink spikes with white flowers. Needs moist, warm, shady conditions with good air movement. 50cm. RHS H1A.

8 *Aechmea* 'Felice'
A striking bromeliad with gold-variegated leaf margins that are presented in a vase-shaped rosette. It produces long-lasting pink flower spikes. Desirable and easy to grow in normal household conditions. 60cm. RHS H1A.

9 *Tillandsia usneoides*
This epiphyte has the largest natural range of the bromeliads. It makes ropes of small, silvery-green, thread-like, rootless plants. 1-2m . RHS H1C.

Where to buy

Crafty Plants
Hortivation, 64 Dunkirk Lane, Leyland,
Lancashire PR25 1TX.
Tel 01772 657564, craftyplants.co.uk
Specialist in air plants. Mail order only.

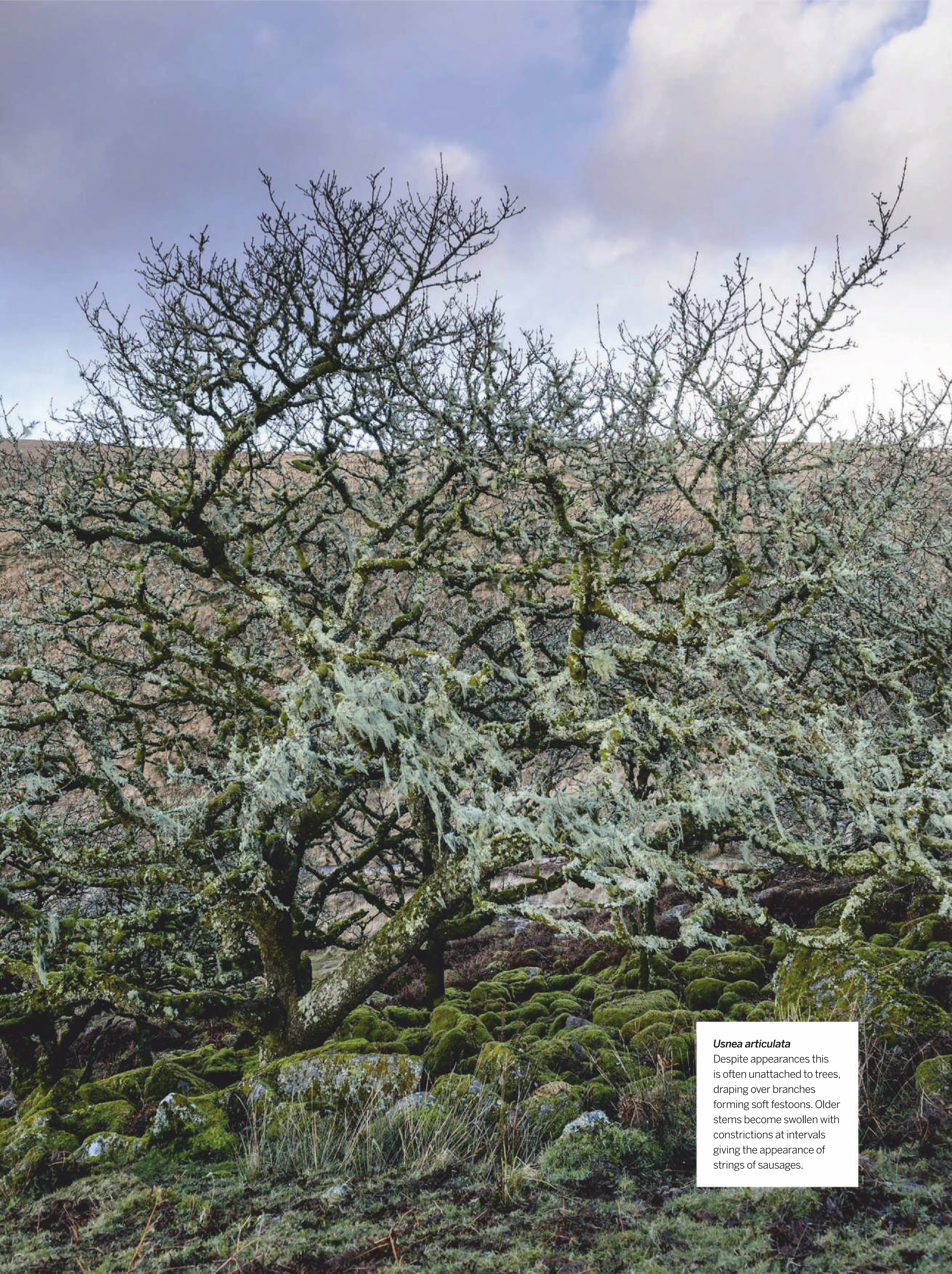
Bridgemere Garden Centre
Bridgemere, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 7QB.
Tel 01270 360003, bluediamond.gg/garden-centres
Good selection of houseplants. Monday to Saturday, 9am-6pm; Sunday, 10.30am-4.30pm.

Duchy of Cornwall Nursery
Cott Road, Lostwithiel, Cornwall PL22 0HW.
Tel 01208 872668, duchyofcornwallnursery.co.uk
Good selection of houseplants. Monday to Saturday, 10am-4pm; Sunday, closed (temporarily).

RHS Garden Wisley Shop and Plant Centre
RHS Garden Wisley, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB.
Tel 01483 211113,rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley
Good selection of houseplants. Monday to Saturday, 9.30am-5.30pm; Sunday, 11am-5pm.

---

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. [†]Hardiness ratings given where available.



Usnea articulata
Despite appearances this is often unattached to trees, draping over branches forming soft festoons. Older stems become swollen with constrictions at intervals giving the appearance of strings of sausages.

Know your lichen

Although they often go unnoticed, with their multitude of colours and forms, lichens deserve a closer look. Discover their intricate beauty with our guide to some of the UK's most common species

WORDS HANNAH GARDNER PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM

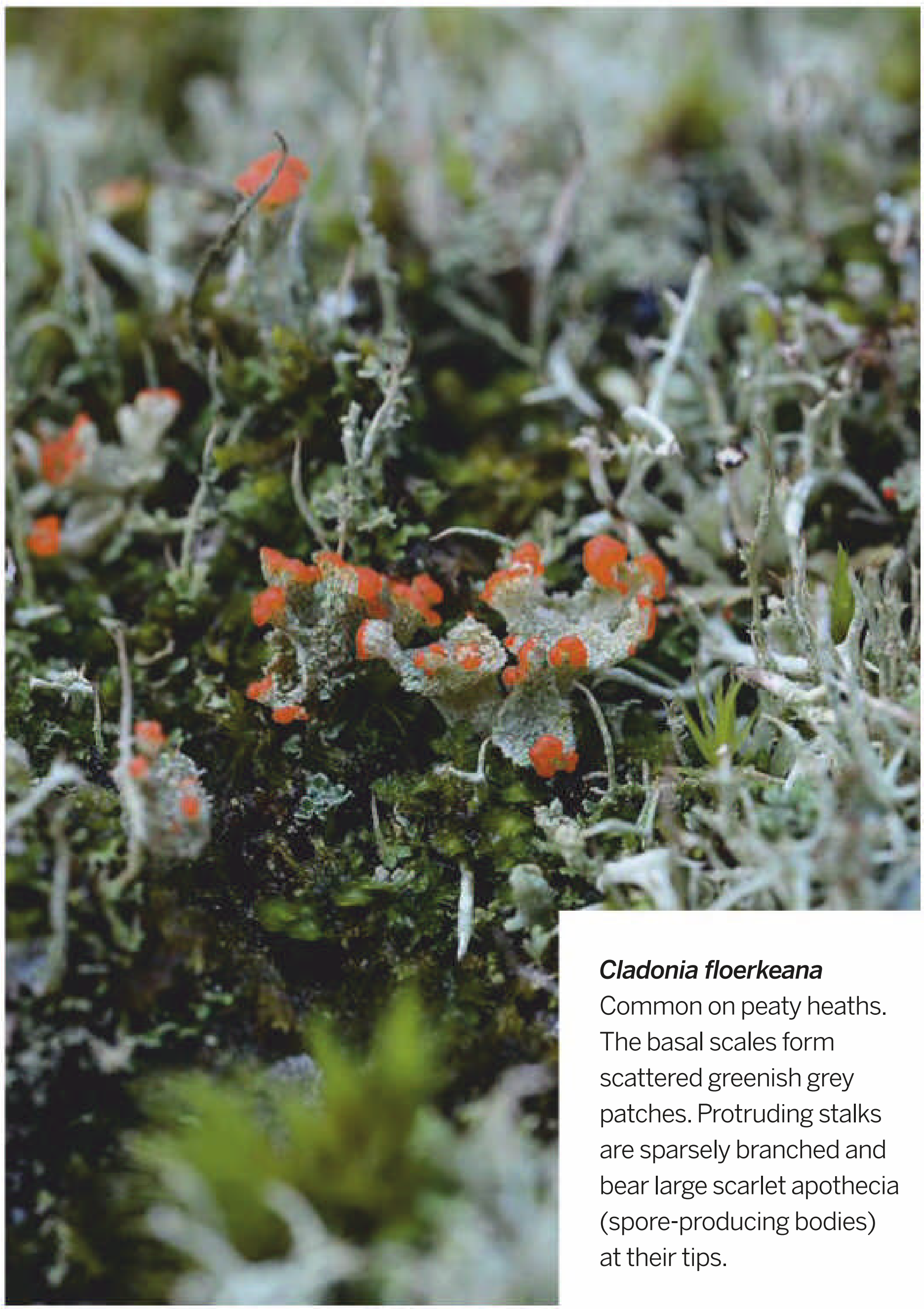
The chances are that lichens are growing closer to hand than you might think. Small in stature, their subtle and furtive beauty passes unnoticed by the casual eye. I first discovered lichens as a coral-like cluster hanging from the branches of a gnarly tree on the edge of Dartmoor, but I also see them as blackened blotches on shoreline rocks and in chartreuse blue-grey on the legs of my wooden garden bench. These tough and intricate structures are not quite a fungus, nor are they a moss. The very first lichens probably occurred before the evolution of land plants, cup fungi species having evolved during the Carboniferous period 358-298 million years ago. A lichen is not a single organism, rather a group of at least two organisms that closely interact in a stable, mutually beneficial (symbiotic) association. This produces a more elaborate and longer lived organisms than either partner can form alone. The relationship is between a fungus and at least one alga (most commonly a green alga) or cyanobacterium.

Most require light to grow and tree lichens are most 'active' when their hosts are not in leaf. Lichens can adapt to different ecological settings by pairing with different photobionts. Many different groups of fungi form lichens, but with an occurrence in 98 per cent of all lichen species cup-fungi are the most common to do so. Lichens reproduce by discharging spores and also vegetatively by shedding ready-to-grow structures that contain both alga and fungus. Some species form upright branched structures but many are prostrate establishing an expanding, irregular, flattened, multi-lobed crust. If undisturbed rock lichens can survive for hundreds or even thousands of years.

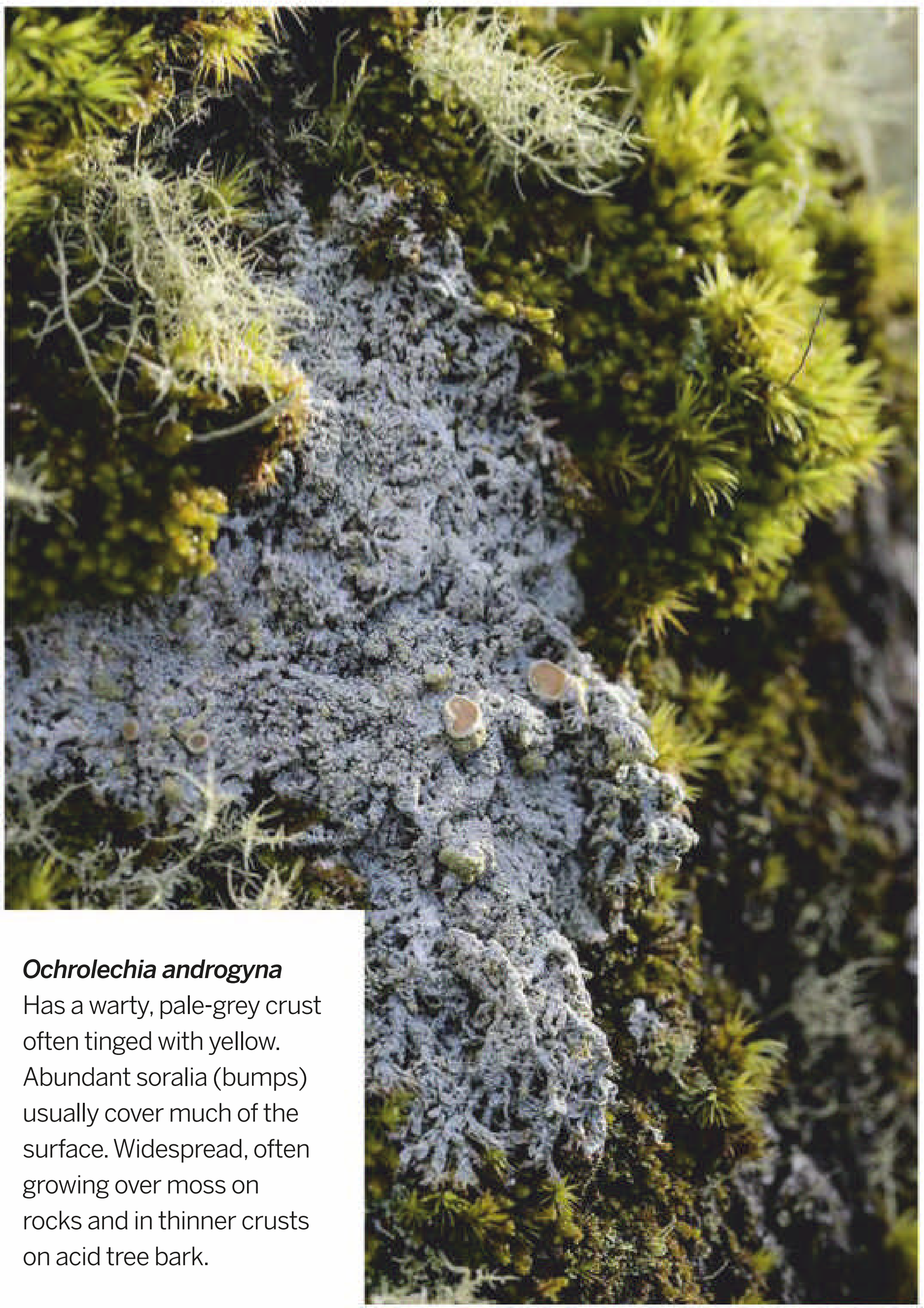
Lichens are useful organisms, although conservationists often now discourage their collection. A small hand lens will enable a closer look at some easily identifiable features and offer a chance to name key species. A garden survey is always satisfying and valuable but be aware that lichens found on stone are often disfigured by browsing slugs and snails. It may be easier to identify conspicuous twig species, these are especially colourful after rainfall. The bulk of lichen diversity belongs to those with cup-shaped or open-fruiting bodies, including *Cladonia*, *Parmelia* and *Peltigera*. They retain roughly the same form throughout the year and with close observation you can identify them in your own garden or in the wider green spaces around you.

The colourful mosaic crusts of lichen can be found colonising a wide range of materials, both natural and man-made in practically all regions of the world. They thrive on rock, wood, tree bark and heathland soil but it's not necessary to head for remote hills and upland forests to make exciting discoveries. Gardens, yards and urban churchyards offer up treasures too. Check the surface of evergreen leaves, the bark of fruit trees, paving slabs and old terracotta pots. Lichens absorb water from the atmosphere very efficiently so they can survive some environmental extremities. Rock lichens are prolific on virtually water-free substrates, such as bare rocks, brick or stone walls. They survive periods of severe desiccation by becoming metabolically inactive but they have no defence against atmospheric pollution. Since Victorian times they have been reliable indicators of air pollution. Lichens subtly colour the whole landscape in places where the air is pure, so with its good air quality, combined with high rainfall, southwest England is one of the best places in the UK to spot a diverse range of lichens. However, it is the remote Celtic rainforests, the Caledonian pinewoods, the Atlantic hazelwoods and high montane habitats of Scotland that are a lichenologist's true nirvana. But wherever you choose to walk this winter, be sure to take a closer look at the lichens you find growing on trees and take pleasure in the multitude of colours and forms you'll find. ❑

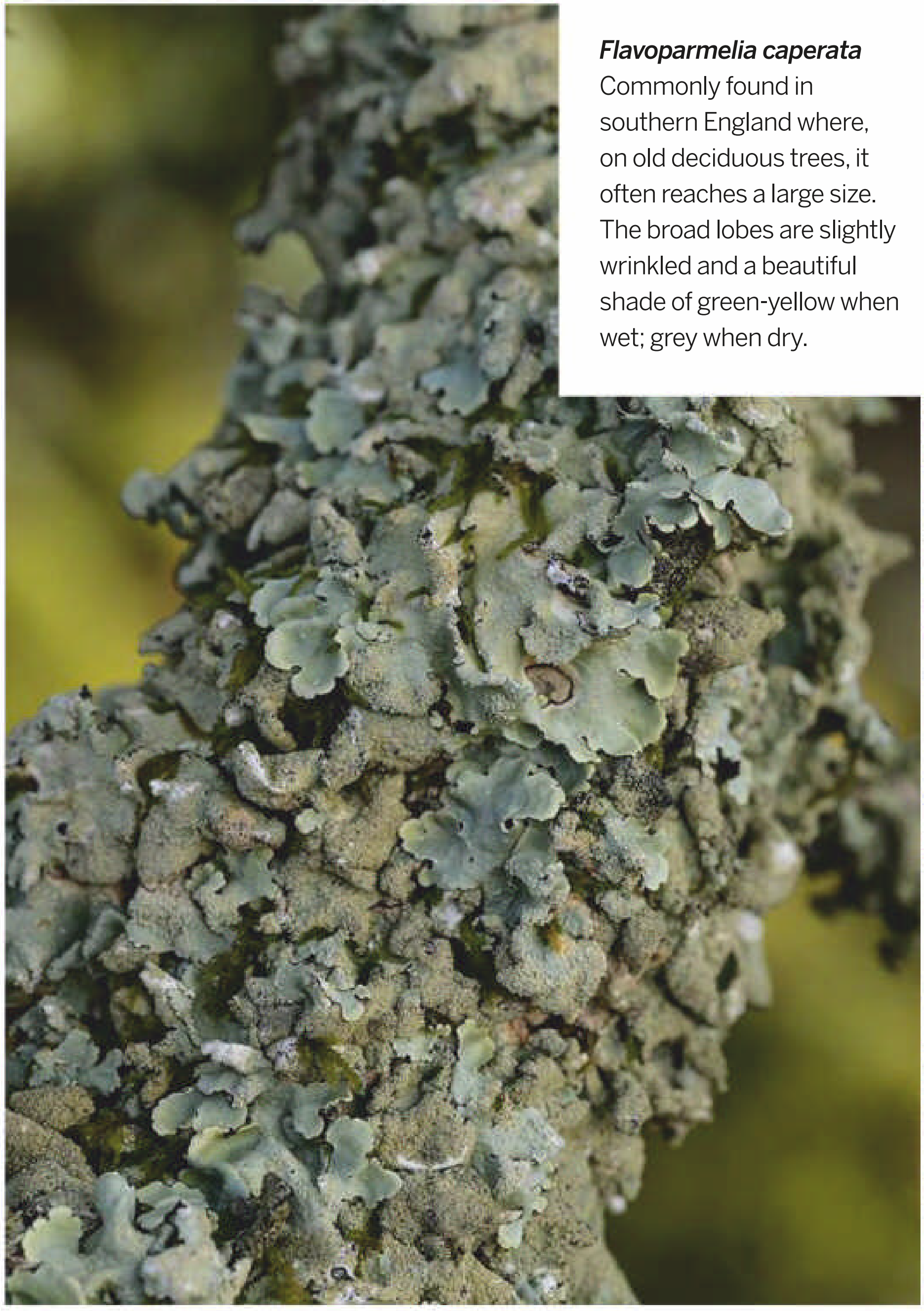
Turn the page for our guide to the UK's most commonly found lichens



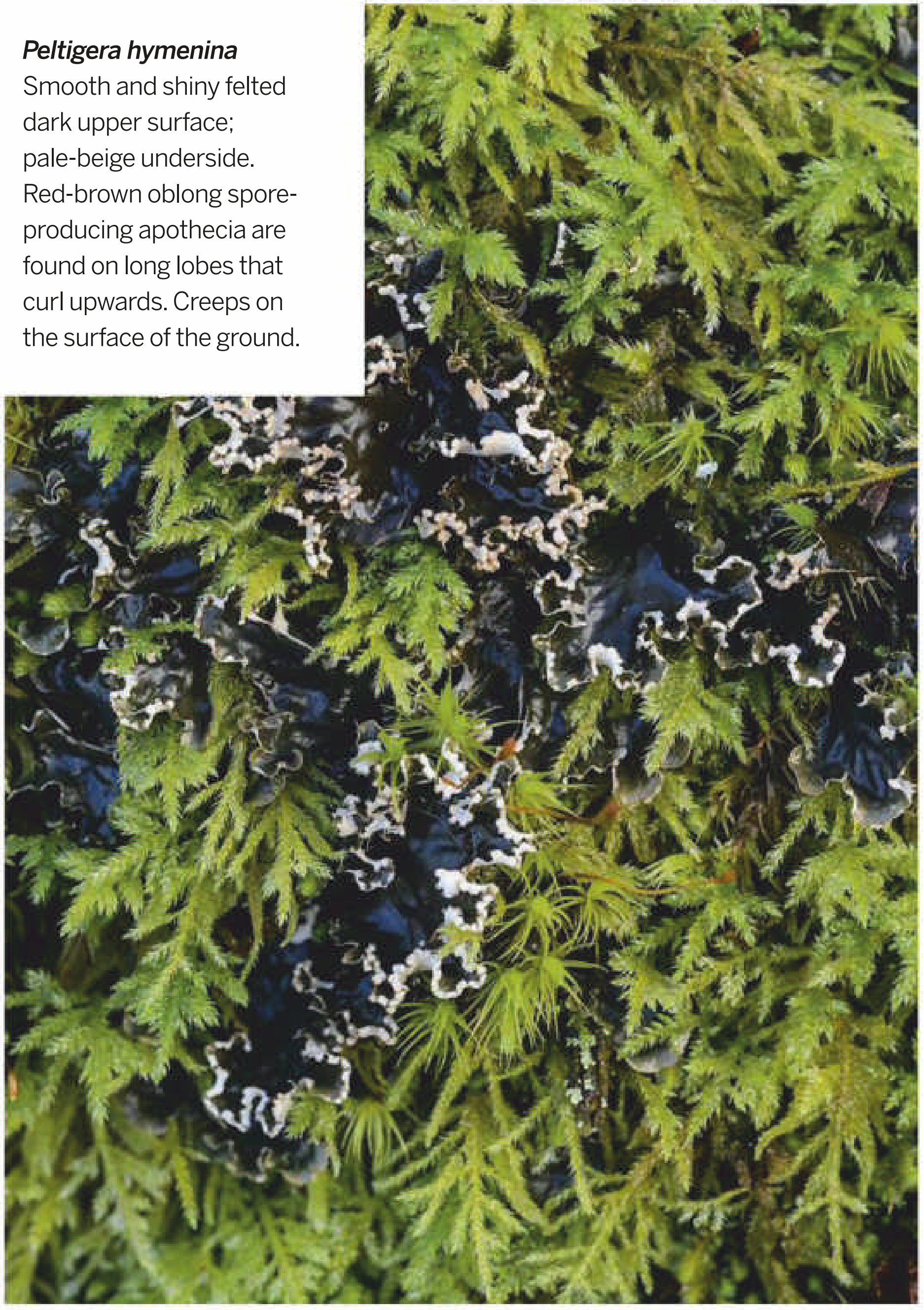
Cladonia floerkeana
Common on peaty heaths. The basal scales form scattered greenish grey patches. Protruding stalks are sparsely branched and bear large scarlet apothecia (spore-producing bodies) at their tips.



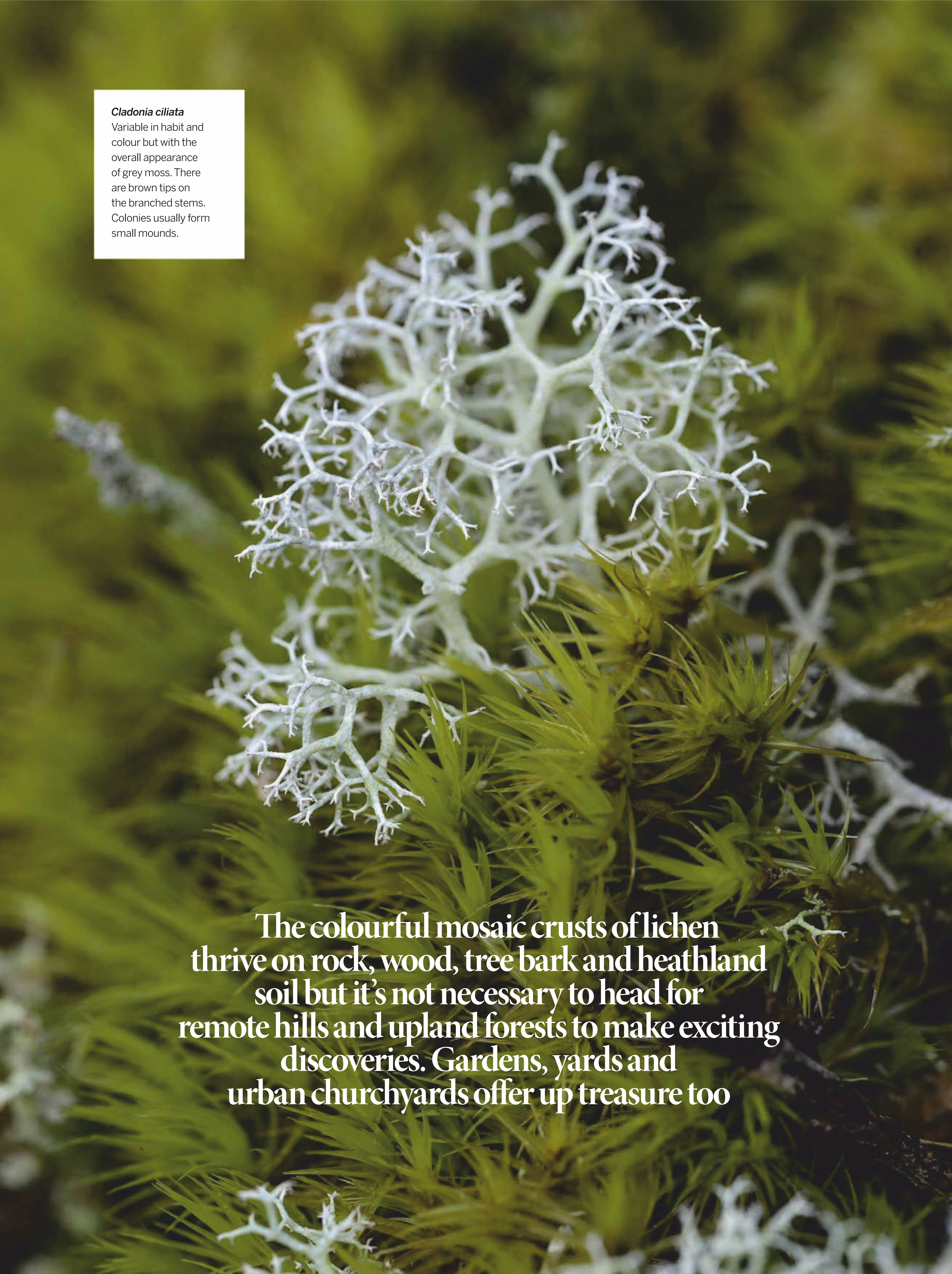
Ochrolechia androgyna
Has a warty, pale-grey crust often tinged with yellow. Abundant soralia (bumps) usually cover much of the surface. Widespread, often growing over moss on rocks and in thinner crusts on acid tree bark.



Flavoparmelia caperata
Commonly found in southern England where, on old deciduous trees, it often reaches a large size. The broad lobes are slightly wrinkled and a beautiful shade of green-yellow when wet; grey when dry.

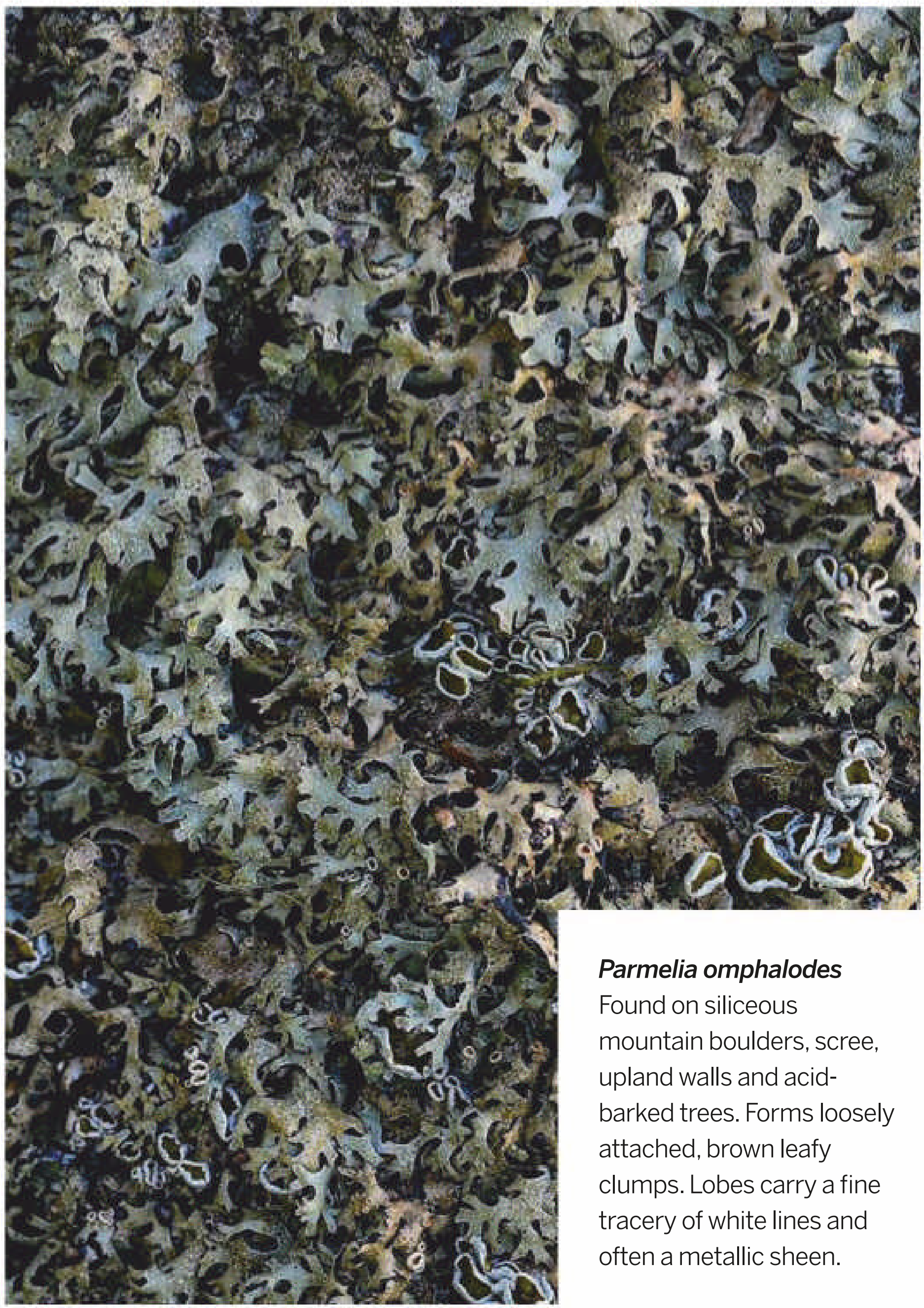


Peltigera hymenina
Smooth and shiny felted dark upper surface; pale-beige underside. Red-brown oblong spore-producing apothecia are found on long lobes that curl upwards. Creeps on the surface of the ground.

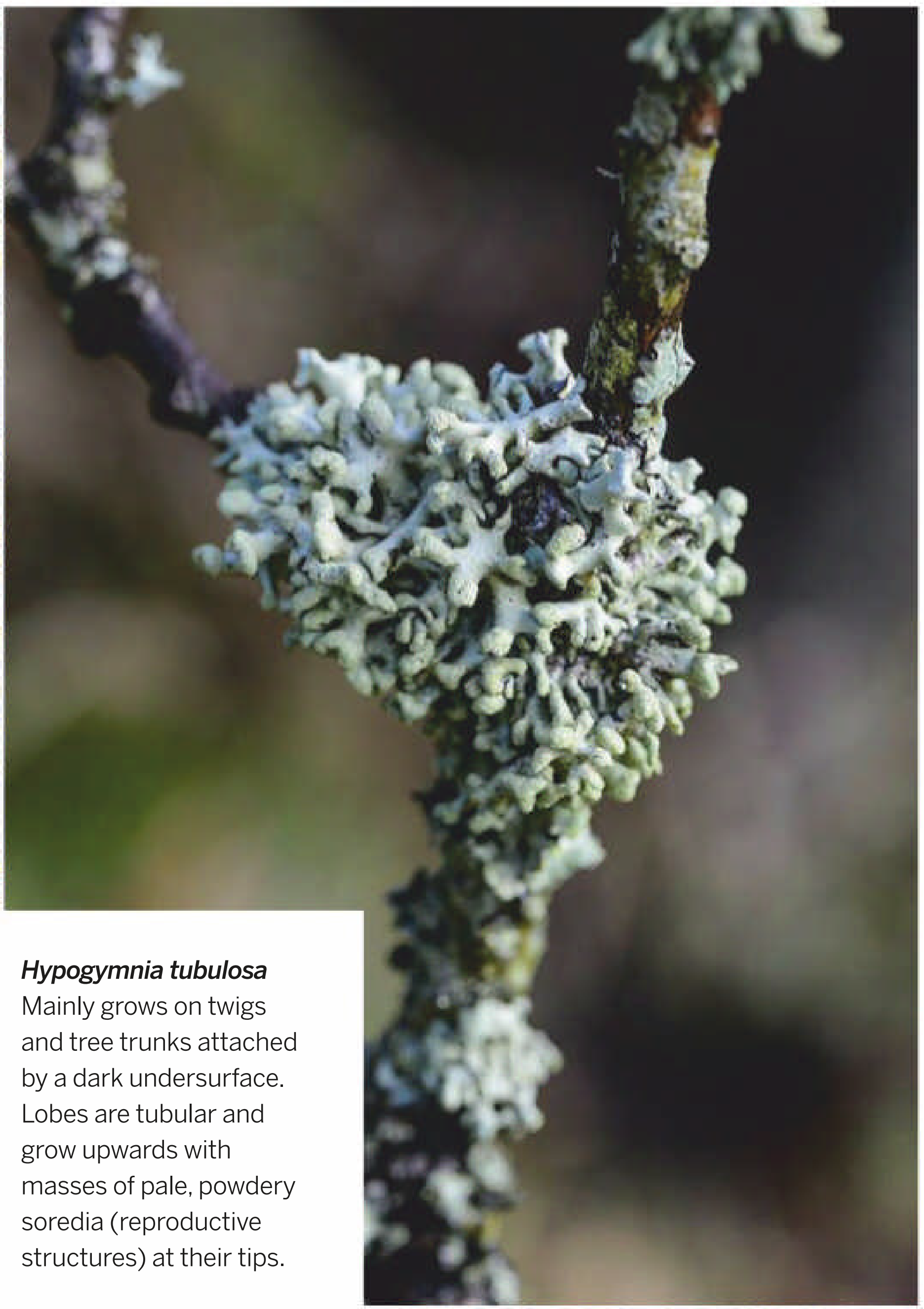


Cladonia ciliata
Variable in habit and colour but with the overall appearance of grey moss. There are brown tips on the branched stems. Colonies usually form small mounds.

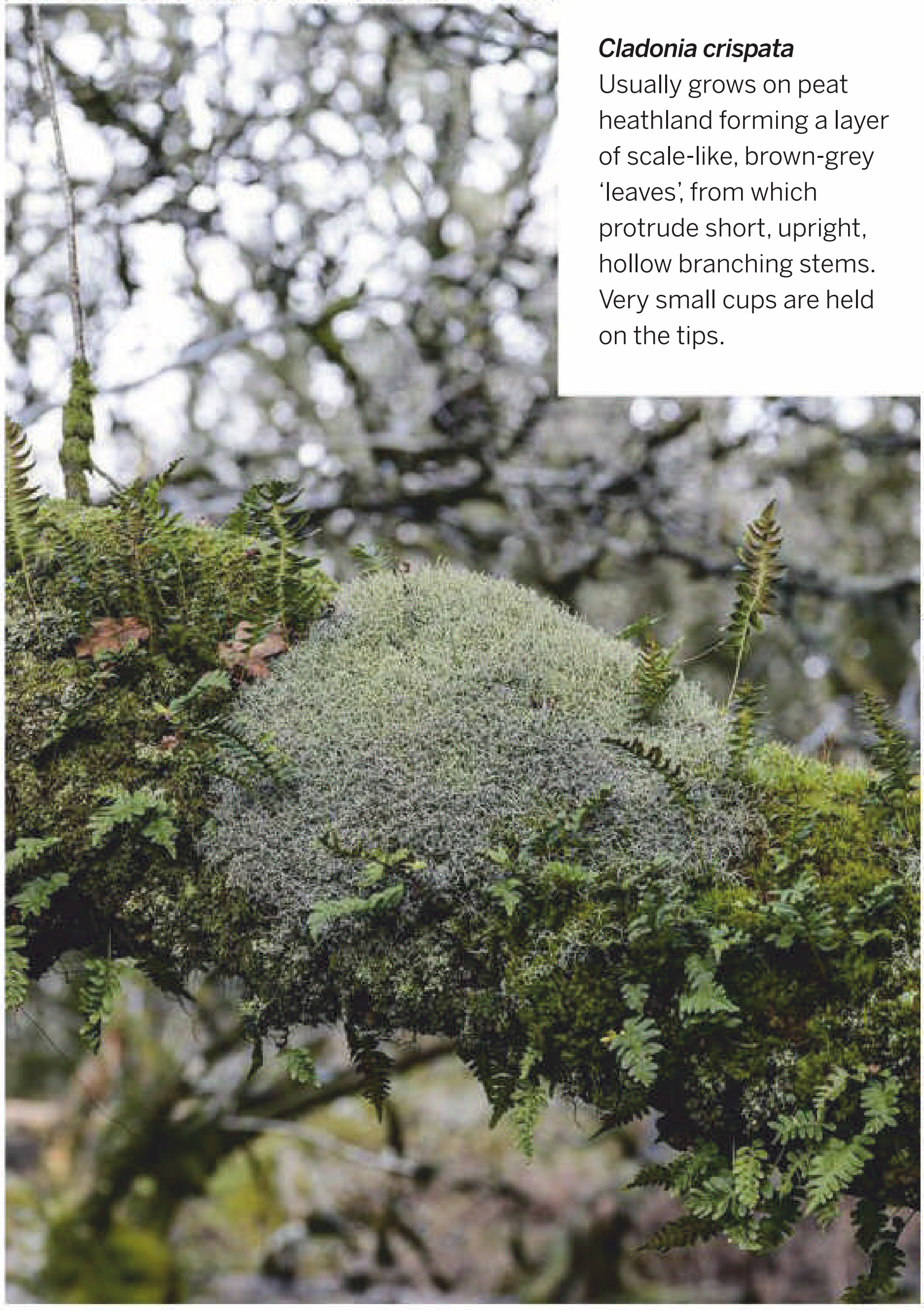
The colourful mosaic crusts of lichen thrive on rock, wood, tree bark and heathland soil but it's not necessary to head for remote hills and upland forests to make exciting discoveries. Gardens, yards and urban churchyards offer up treasure too



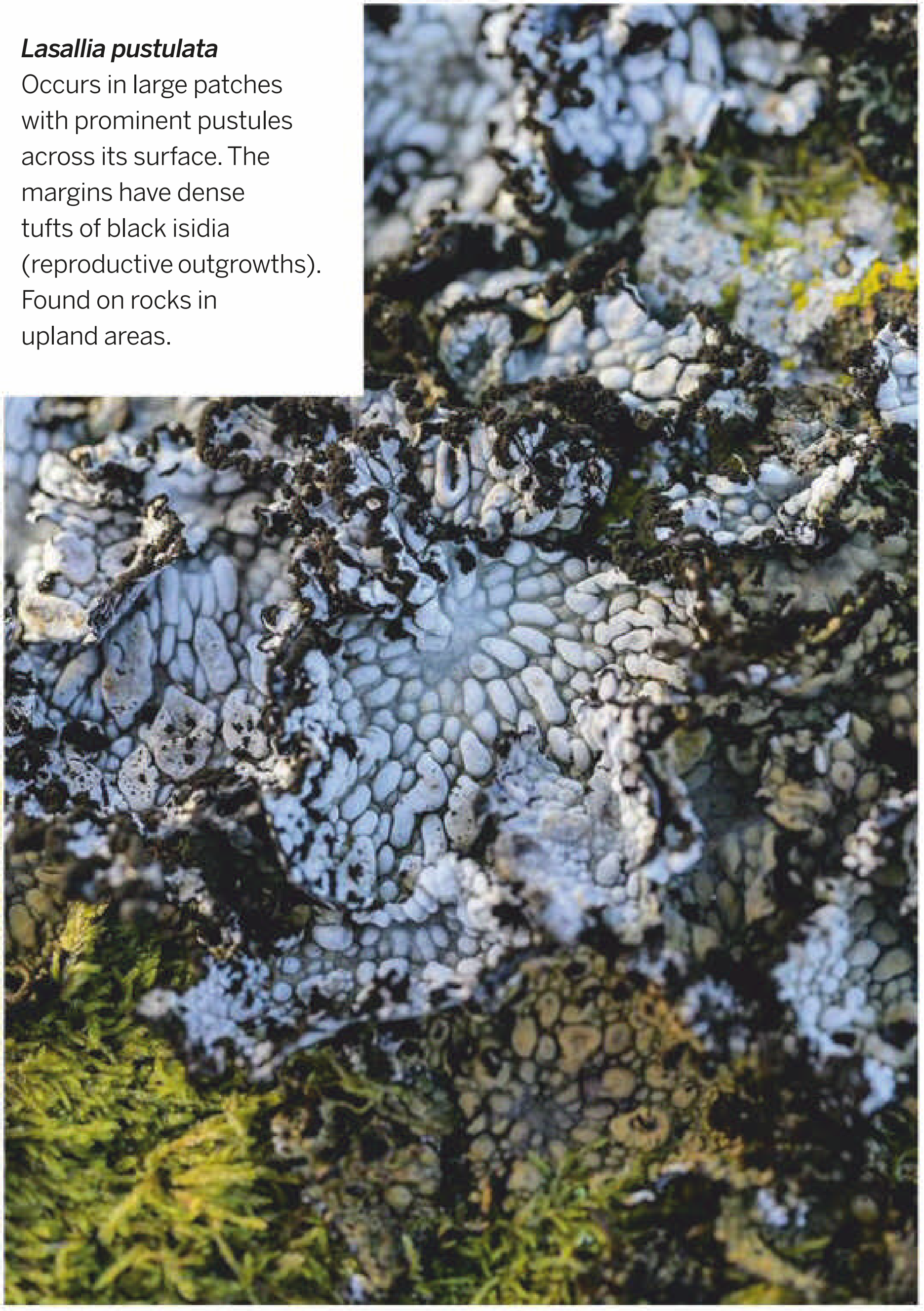
Parmelia omphalodes
Found on siliceous mountain boulders, scree, upland walls and acid-barked trees. Forms loosely attached, brown leafy clumps. Lobes carry a fine tracery of white lines and often a metallic sheen.



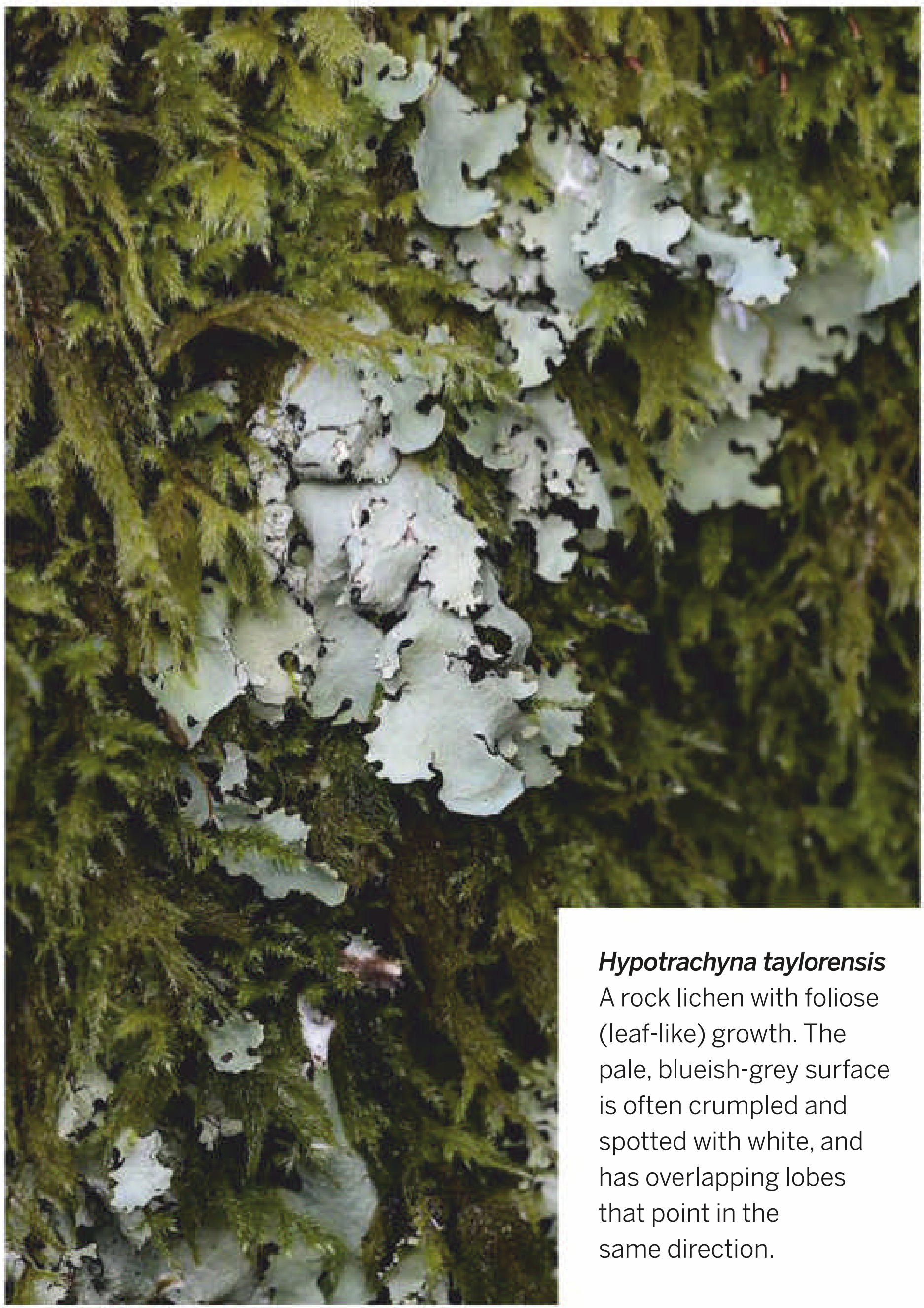
Hypogymnia tubulosa
Mainly grows on twigs and tree trunks attached by a dark undersurface. Lobes are tubular and grow upwards with masses of pale, powdery soredia (reproductive structures) at their tips.



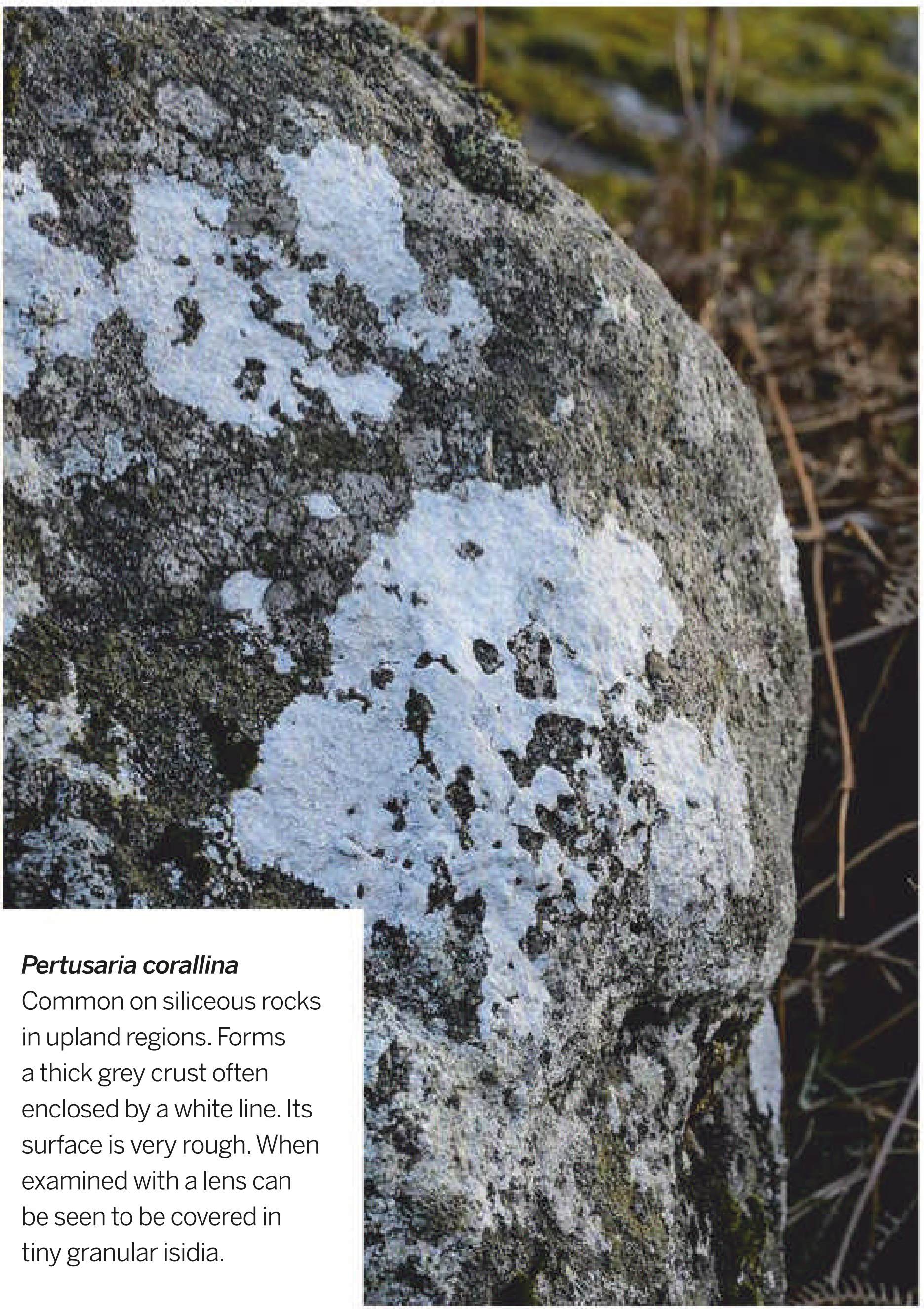
Cladonia crispata
Usually grows on peat heathland forming a layer of scale-like, brown-grey 'leaves', from which protrude short, upright, hollow branching stems. Very small cups are held on the tips.



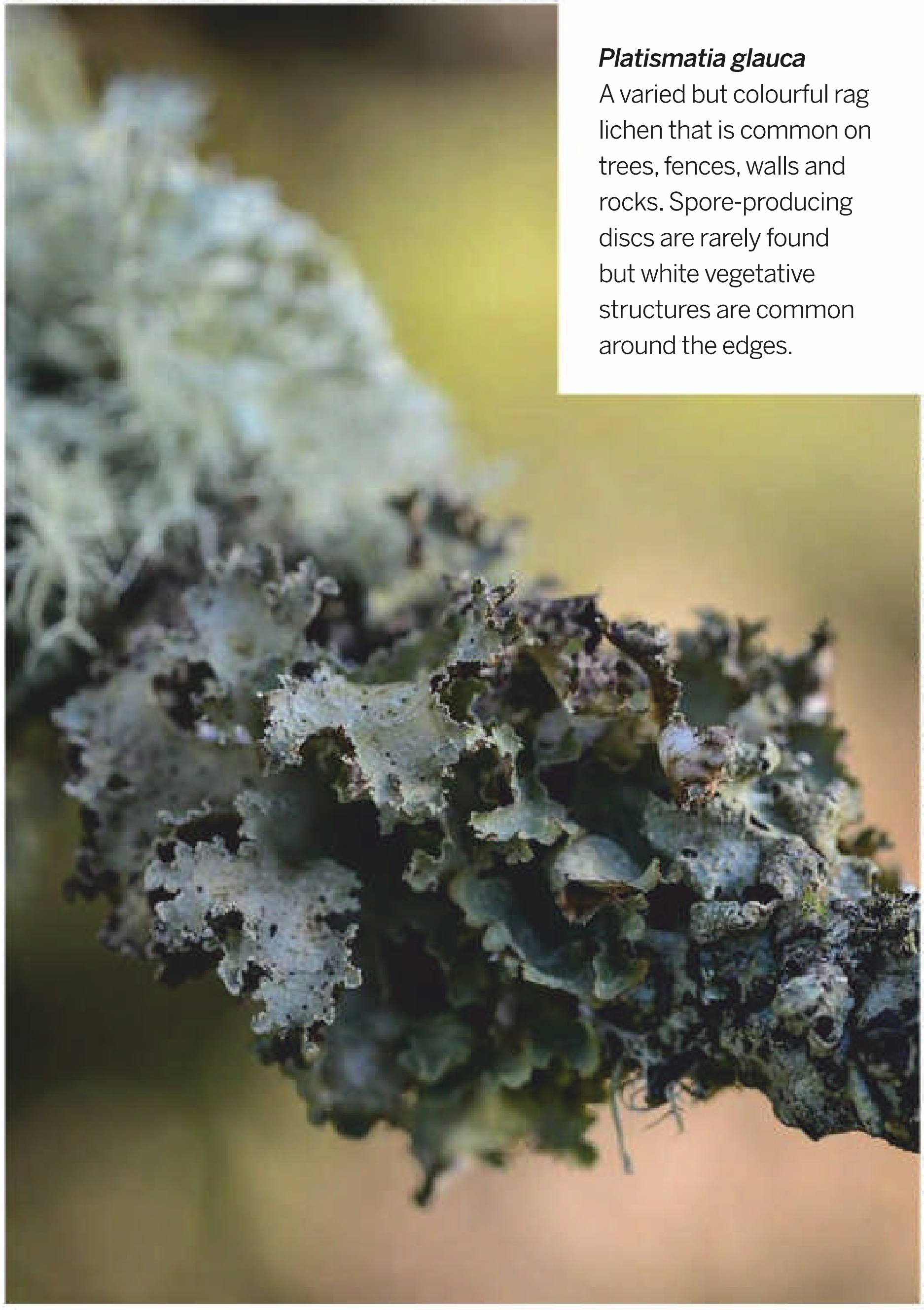
Lasallia pustulata
Occurs in large patches with prominent pustules across its surface. The margins have dense tufts of black isidia (reproductive outgrowths). Found on rocks in upland areas.



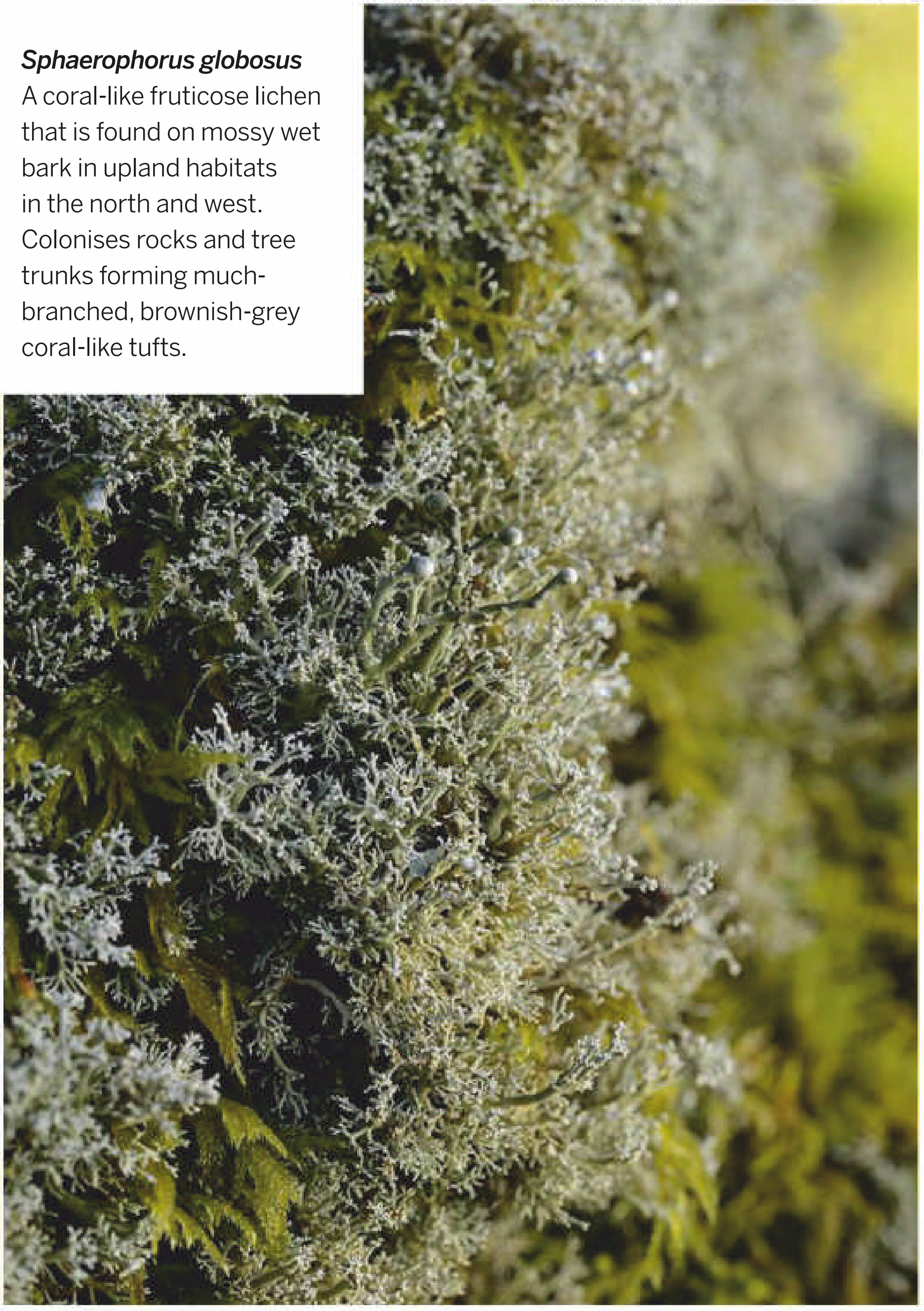
Hypotrachyna taylorensis
A rock lichen with foliose (leaf-like) growth. The pale, blueish-grey surface is often crumpled and spotted with white, and has overlapping lobes that point in the same direction.



Pertusaria corallina
Common on siliceous rocks in upland regions. Forms a thick grey crust often enclosed by a white line. Its surface is very rough. When examined with a lens can be seen to be covered in tiny granular isidia.



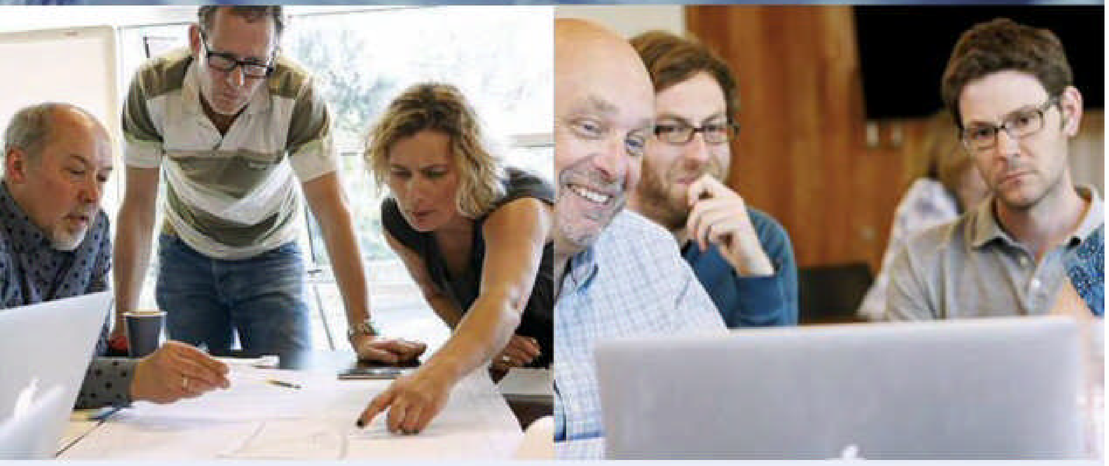
Platismatia glauca
A varied but colourful rag lichen that is common on trees, fences, walls and rocks. Spore-producing discs are rarely found but white vegetative structures are common around the edges.



Sphaerophorus globosus
A coral-like fruticose lichen that is found on mossy wet bark in upland habitats in the north and west. Colonises rocks and tree trunks forming much-branched, brownish-grey coral-like tufts.

DEVELOP YOUR PASSION FOR PLANTING DESIGN

At the **London College of Garden Design** our aim is to provide **world- class, inspirational garden design training.** Our six month **Planting Design Diploma** has been created to enable students to learn from the very best designers and plants people.



Through practical workshops, inspirational lectures and visits the **Planting Design Diploma** explores contemporary and traditional approaches to support and develop your planting design skills delivered over 30 days from January to June at our home in the **Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.**

The course is led by **Andrew Fisher Tomlin** and we are fortunate to have **leading specialists lecturers** including Neil Lucas of **Knoll Gardens**, Tony Kirkham from the **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew** and Nigel Dunnett from the **University of Sheffield** as well as design tutors including Graham Bodle, Ann-Marie Powell, Carolyn Willitts and Amanda Patton.

To find out about our **courses** at our **Australian** home in the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Melbourne Gardens please visit **lcgd.com.au**

LCGD
LONDON COLLEGE OF GARDEN DESIGN

CONTACT US
+44 (0)1483 762955
info@lcgd.org.uk
lcgd.org.uk

Ideal Christmas presents for keen gardeners!

Leander
Est. 1980

PLANT SUPPORTS
& Garden Artefacts

Beautiful designs for herbaceous perennials, roses, shrubs & climbers.

www.leanderplantsupports.co.uk
Tel. 01773 550495 for a brochure

Made in England

CARRIER COMPANY
norfolk england

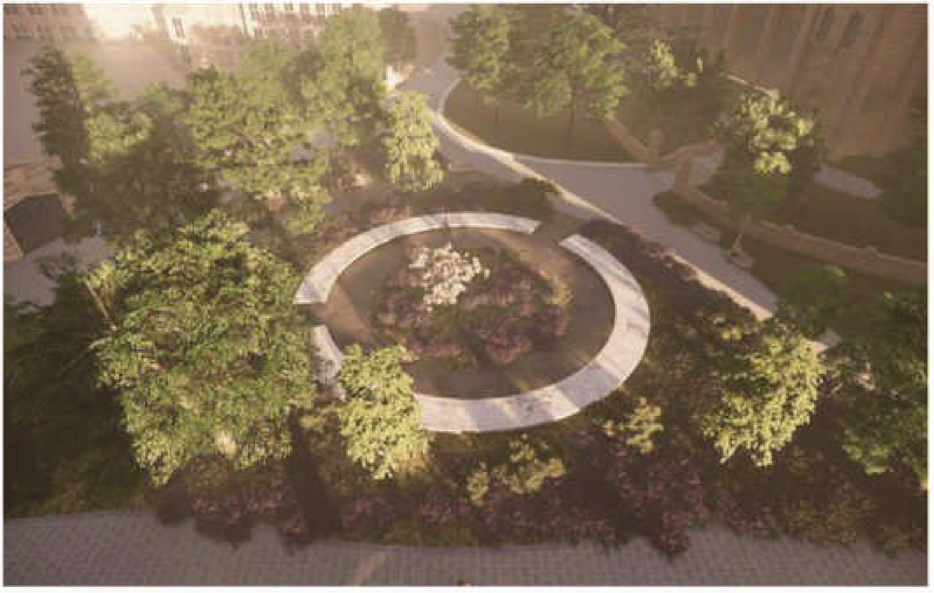
HERITAGE WORKWEAR FOR MEN AND WOMEN
MADE IN NORFOLK, ENGLAND
carriercompany.co.uk +44 (0)1328 820699

Design

News and sourcebook

A SPACE TO REMEMBER

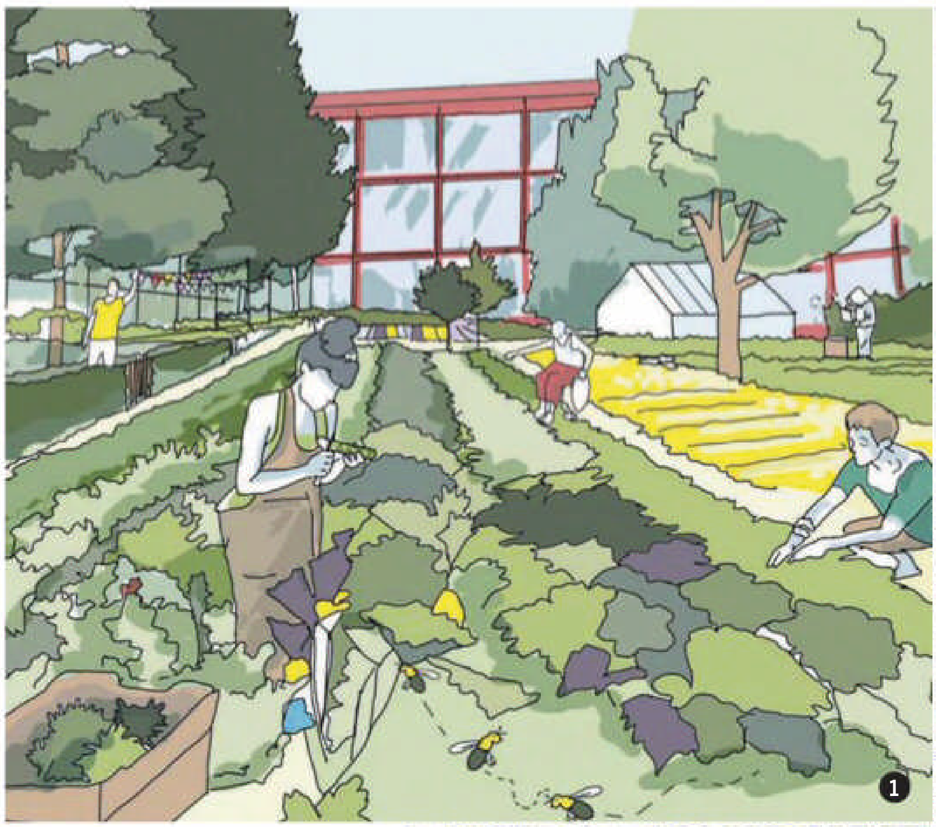
BCA Landscape and design agency Smiling Wolf have submitted plans for approval to Manchester City Council for a memorial garden to the victims of the Manchester Arena bombing. Inspired by the purple colours of the upland heaths of the nearby Peak District, the planting within a sunny glade of grasses, heathers, bulbs and perennials, will change through a subtle palette of crimson, cerise, ruby, magenta and amethyst throughout the year. The centrepiece of the tranquil garden will be a white halo in marble that will bear the names in bronze of the 22 people who lost their lives in the 2017 attack. **bcalandscape.co.uk**

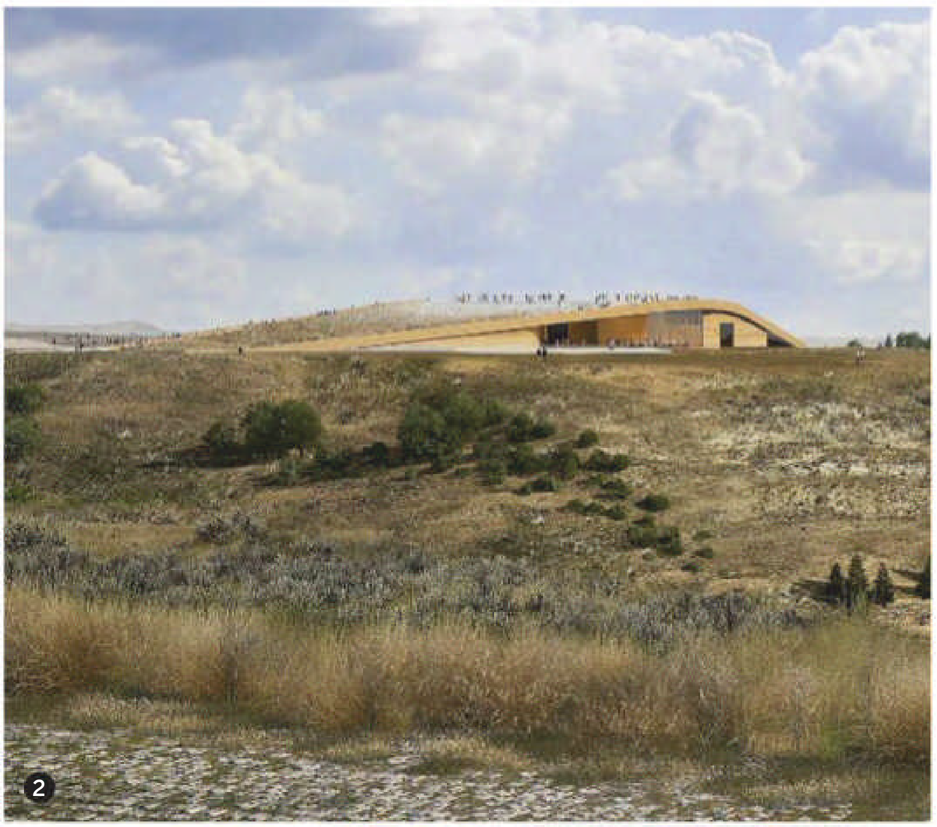


BCA LANDSCAPE

News

COMPILED BY ANNIE GATTI





① HEATH PARK

The RIBA competition to transform the Heath Business and Technical Park in Cheshire into a multi-use, carbon-free environment has been won by emerging practice EcoResponsive Environments. Green roofs and permeable pavements will minimise surface runoff of water and a wetland filtration system will deal with waste water. Mature trees will create a green spine and communal courtyard gardens will include allotments and areas for relaxation, and a 500m-long wildflower meadow will create a natural corridor for pollinators. The next stage will be a feasibility study.

ecoresponsiveenvironments.com

② PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

International architecture and landscape practice Snøhetta has been selected to design the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in North Dakota. The library, which abuts the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, will be built with natural and renewable materials. Its sloping roof, which will be planted with grasses, sedges and flowering forbs native to, or adapted to, the region's climate, is a visual extension of the landscape. A curved path leads visitors around the site, and a series of small pavilions will provide spaces for reflection and activity.

snohetta.com

③ FINSBURY PARK CIRCUS

The winning design of a competition to restore Finsbury Circus Gardens, the City of London's oldest and largest public open space, has been revealed. The winning team of Architecture00 + Studio Weave, with ReardonSmith Landscape, has retained the existing York stone paved outer ring and inserted a second pathway that frames a large lawn. An urban forest will cover the west side of the two-acre park, and on the northeast side a new open-sided stone pavilion and terrazzo, will host a café and an events space.

cityoflondon.gov.uk

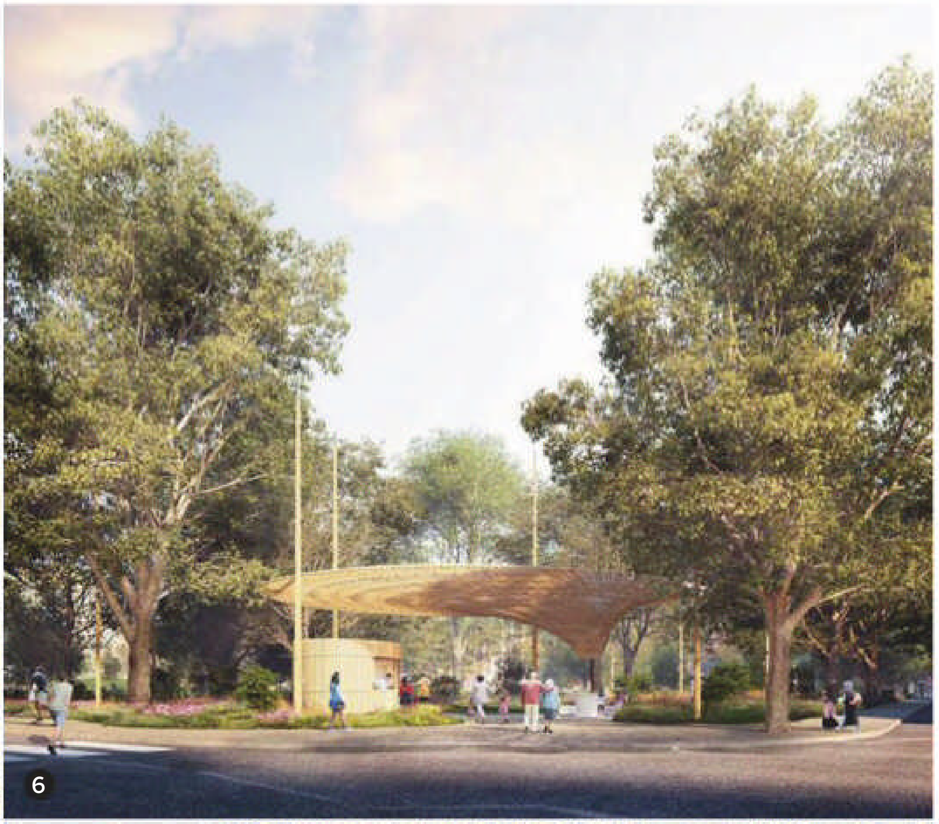
④ ST GEORGE'S HOSPITAL

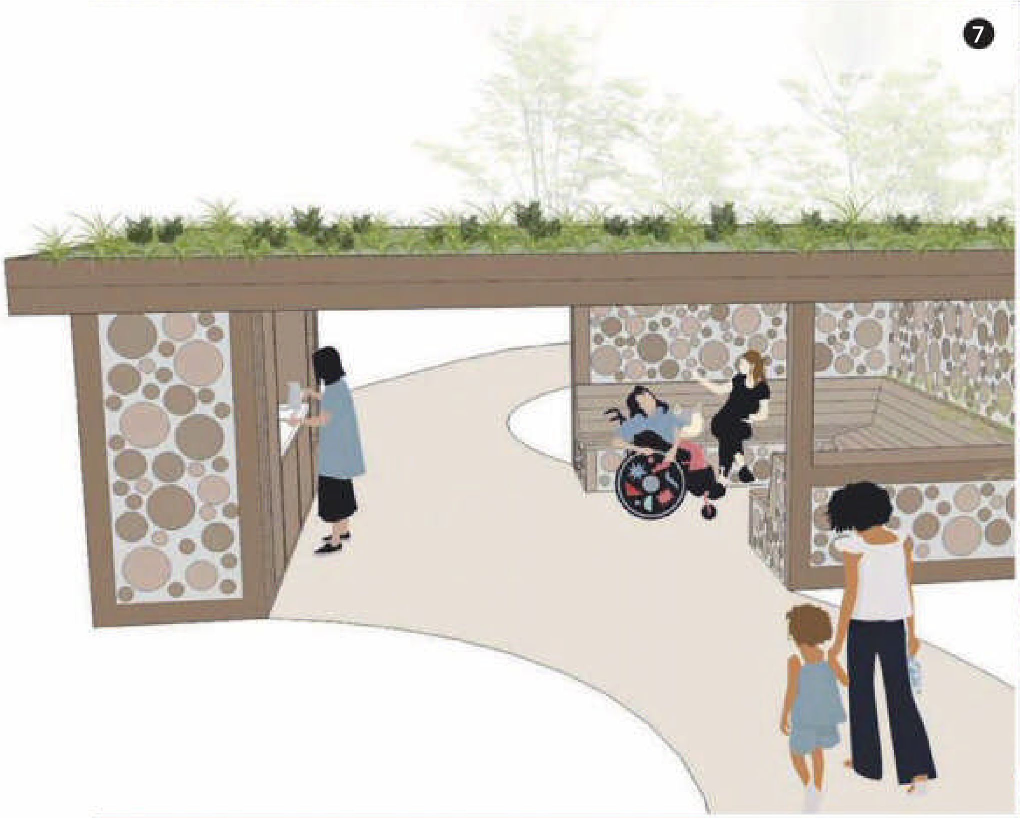
The worn and sloping grassy space in front of the entrance to London's St George's University Hospital has been transformed in just a few weeks by the design team at Bowles & Wyer. The higher part of the two-tier planted landscape offers formal seating surrounded by perennials in bright colours combined with grasses such as *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* and *Stipa tenuissima*. Lower down, an informal path leads through a woodland area with lush green planting and a more muted colour scheme to create a feeling of calm.

bowleswyer.co.uk; stgeorges.nhs.uk

4 BOWLES && WYER

5


6


7

8

⑤ WILDFLOWER MEADOWS

The sight of a combine harvester in Everton Park in Liverpool this summer confirmed the success of the scheme to bring wildflowers to the centre of the city. When the National Wildflower Centre, which introduced the scheme, closed in 2017 the Cornwall-based Eden Project stepped in to protect its legacy and continue its work restoring wild habitats and biodiversity around the UK. The plantings in Liverpool have been made over the past two years with the help of more than 700 school children and a variety of community groups. **edenproject.com**

⑥ GROSVENOR SQUARE

Initial design proposals by London practice Tonkin Liu for the redesign of London's Grosvenor Square reveal four interlocking gardens based on the original oval shape set out when the square was created 300 years ago. Corner gardens, each featuring a floating rain basket that doubles as a shelter, will provide green gateways leading to the open space at the centre. Here, a rising mound will form the roof of a secret, underground water garden that will enable rainwater capture. A new planted zone around the edge of the square will almost double the number of existing trees. **tonkinliu.co.uk**

⑦ SENSORY GARDEN

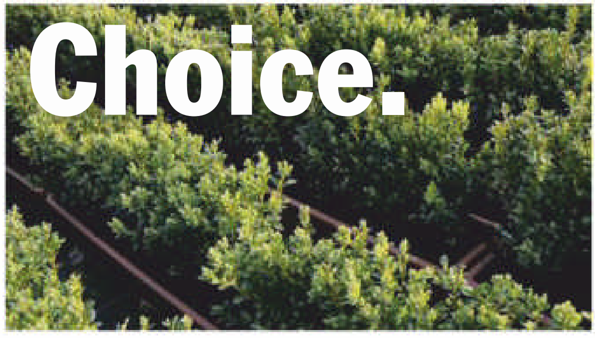
Concept plans for a new sensory garden designed by Victoria and Joe Wade for Tŷ Hafan children's hospice in Wales have been revealed. The garden is conceived as a woodland walk through willow tunnels and twiggy arches. Trees on earth mounds provide shade and areas of privacy, and there is a colourful understorey of woodland planting. In the middle of the garden, a woodland hut, with walls made of stacked logs and clay mortar, and a planted green roof, will have seating for up to ten people. A den, made of woven hazel branches, will be dotted with leaf-shaped mirrors on the inside. **victoriawade.co.uk**

⑧ THE LASKETT

The Laskett Gardens, the Herefordshire gardens created by Sir Roy Strong and his late wife Julia Trevelyan Oman, has been gifted to the horticultural charity Perennial. Since 1973, the couple transformed a four-acre field into a series of garden rooms, with the latest addition being a belvedere that Sir Roy designed and built in 2018. The charity will receive ownership from 1 January 2021 and the garden will be open to visitors for periods of the year from April. At the moment there are no plans to change the garden. To make a booking call 0800 093 8510. **perennial.org.uk**

READYHEDGE®

Our instant hedging is available to order in a huge range of varieties and sizes, ready-spaced in troughs or Readybags.



01386 750585
lindsay@readyhedge.com
matthew@readyhedge.com
www.readyhedge.com

Poddy & Black

Natural rubber shoes, boots and clogs

Fabulously floral, seriously comfortable, totally waterproof

www.poddyandblack.com
+44 (0)20 3633 7288

Genus GARDENWEAR

A XMAS GIFT FOR YEAR-ROUND JOY – THAT'S GENUS

High performance trousers packed with special gardening features

Technical clothing for serious gardeners

Styles for men and women

Endorsed by RHS Inspiring everyone to grow

WWW.GENUS.GS

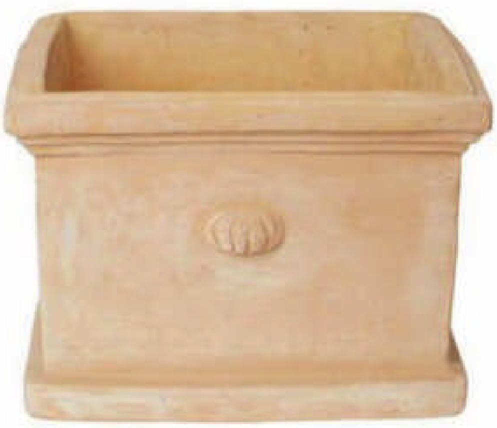
© The Royal Horticultural Society. Endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society. Registered Charity No 222879/SC038262. rhs.org.uk

SOURCEBOOK

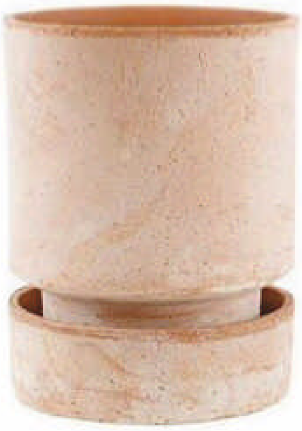
Terracotta pots

Nine stylish clay pots for home or garden

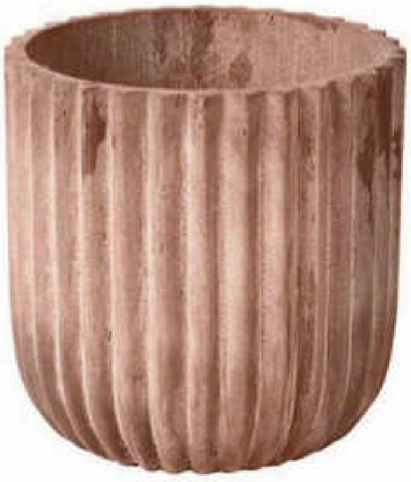
COMPILED BY KATIE DUTTON



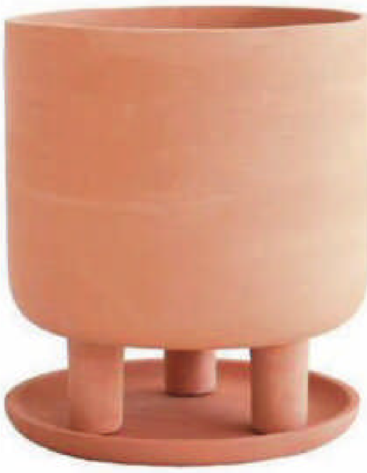
FORMAL
Mali White Washed Terracotta Plant Pot, H25cm x W35cm, £15, B&Q, 0333 014 3357, diy.com



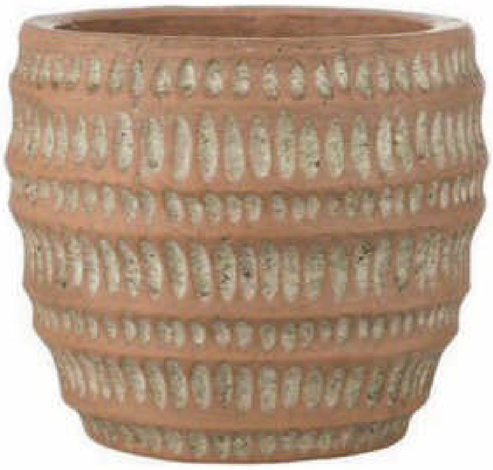
STACKABLE
Hoff Plant Pot & Saucer, rosa raw, H11cm x Ø8cm, £15, Feather & Nest, 01235 510968, featherandnest.co.uk



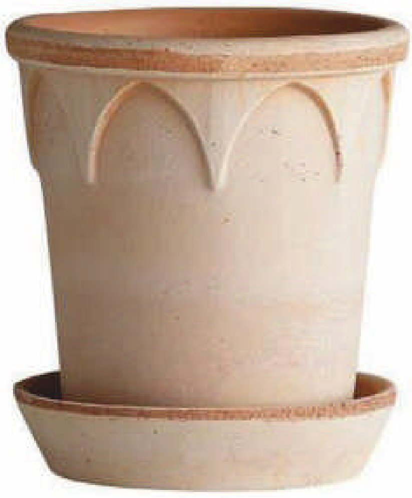
TEXTURAL
Fibreclay Planters (set of 2), small H29cm x Ø29cm, large H38cm x Ø38cm, £125, Graham & Green, 01225 418200, grahamandgreen.co.uk



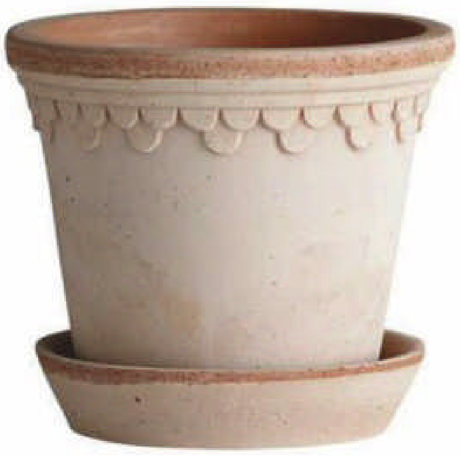
RAISED
Studio Arhoj Tri-Pot, big, H18cm x Ø15cm, £40, KIN, kinhome.co



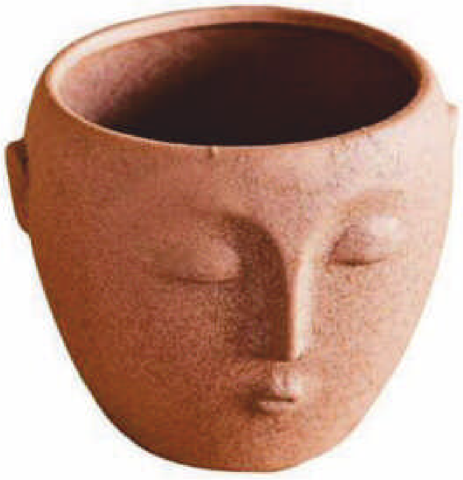
HAND-DECORATED
Jillia Flower Pot, H14cm x Ø15cm, £11.75, Lene Bjerre, +45 96 71 21 00, lenebjerre.com



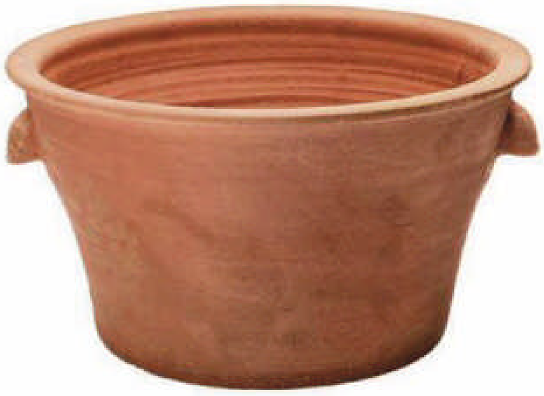
CLASSIC
Bergs Potters Elizabeth Plant Pot & Saucer, antique rosa, H17cm x Ø18cm, £17, Amara, 0800 587 7645, amara.com



PATTERNED
Bergs Potter Köpenhamn Flower Pot, pink, H9.5cm x Ø10cm, £8, Nordic Nest, 020 3002 1196, nordicnest.com



STATEMENT
Terracotta Face Plant Pot, large, H12cm x Ø14cm, £16, Rose & Grey, 0161 926 8763, roseandgrey.co.uk



GOOD FOR BULBS
Poterie Redan Terracotta Tulip Pot, H7.5cm x Ø31.5cm, £76, Manufactum, 0800 096 0937, manufactum.co.uk

BBC
Gardeners' World magazine
FREE
Calendar

Prunus serrula (Tibetan cherry tree) at Ashwood Nurseries, West Midlands, by Jason Ingram

BBC Gardeners' World magazine

January

WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

- **Jot** down key sowing dates on your *Gardeners' World Magazine* calendar
- **Start** a garden journal to record this year's successes and plan changes
- **Order** seeds of new varieties and crops you'd like to try growing
- **Buy** our 2021 *Year Planner* at **gardenersworld.com/offers**

FEBRUARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day Bank holiday UK	2	3

INSIDE MAGAZINE + CALENDAR ONLY £5.45
CALENDAR 2021
BBC
Gardeners' World
Winter pruning
Follow Alan's guide to make the right cuts
CREATIVE FAMILY PROJECTS
Your green Christmas
Garden-foraged decorations
How to make your tree last
Eco-friendly gardening gifts
FREE GIFT Calendar 2021
ON TEST Gardening gloves
10 crops to start now!
Grow your own Christmas dinner
MAGAZINE + CALENDAR INSIDE

ON SALE NOW

FREE! Calendar 2021

only with the December issue

- ✓ **12 beautiful seasonal images**
- ✓ **Room for your appointments and gardening notes**
- ✓ **Key gardening jobs – never miss a task with our monthly reminders**

Gardeners' World magazine
CALENDAR 2021

Also in this issue...

- Create natural decorations
- Holiday projects for kids
- Harvesting for Christmas dinner
- Winter pruning

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED'S

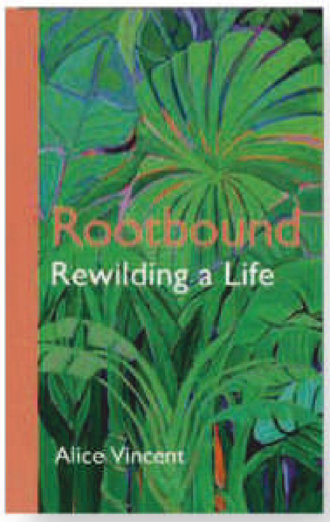
Best gardening books of the year

A look back at some of our favourite books from 2020, plus your chance to win them all

From a few pots of herbs to apricot trees, Great Dixter's gardener-cook Aaron Bertelsen explains how to create a container-grown kitchen garden in *Grow Fruit & Vegetables In Pots*, see review on page 100.

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

BOOK REVIEWS

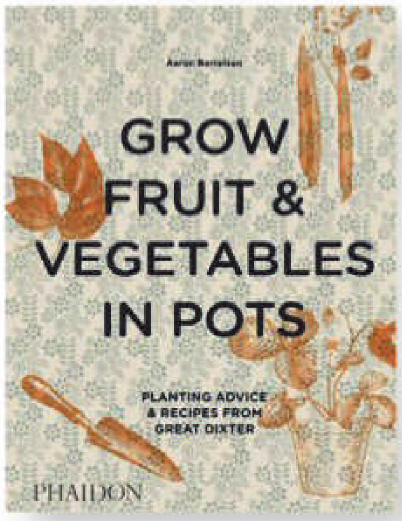

Rootbound
Rewilding a Life
Alice Vincent

ROOTBOUND: REWILDING A LIFE

by Alice Vincent,
Canongate Books, £14.99,
ISBN 978-1786897701

An inquisitiveness underpins Alice Vincent's book: a natural compulsion to seek and nurture green amid London's grey. It is Nature's unwavering constancy that Vincent finds grounding, as a twenty-something contending with the pressures of ambition, loneliness and heartache. *Rootbound* is both relevant and important, questioning what it means to call oneself a gardener, and where horticulture fits within the modern urban experience.

Reviewer Matt Collins is head gardener at the Garden Museum.

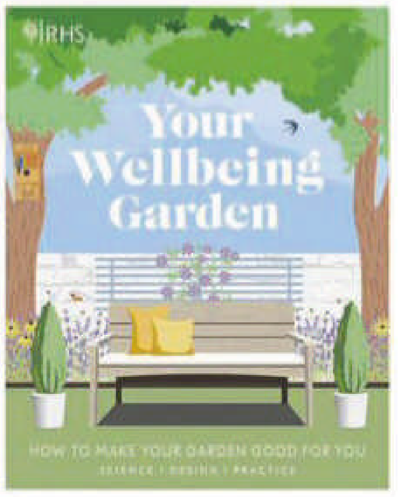

Aaron Bertelsen
GROW FRUIT & VEGETABLES IN POTS
PLANTING ADVICE & RECIPES FROM GREAT DIXTER
PHAIDON

GROW FRUIT & VEGETABLES IN POTS

by Aaron Bertelsen,
Phaidon Press, £24.95,
ISBN 978-0714878614

Aaron Bertelsen has spent his life loving plants and as a passionate cook has always had a special interest in growing fruit and vegetables. If you have limited space and time but have always wanted to grow fresh produce, this book will inspire and guide you in enjoying one of the most basic pleasures in life. It also encourages experienced growers to think outside of the box and consider what can be achieved with plants in any situation.

Reviewer Tom Coward is head gardener at Gravetye Manor.

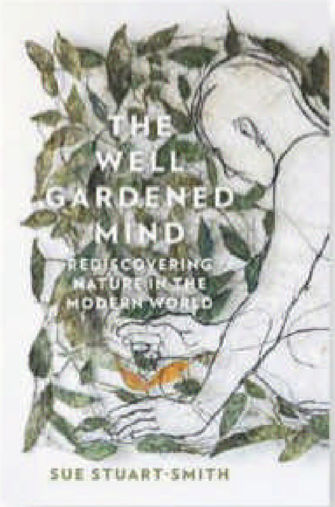

RHS
Your Wellbeing Garden
HOW TO MAKE YOUR GARDEN GOOD FOR YOU
SCIENCE | DESIGN | PRACTICE

RHS YOUR WELLBEING GARDEN

by Alistair Griffiths and Matt Keightley, DK, £16.99,
ISBN 978-0241386729

There is no better time to reap the calming benefits of natural spaces. Professor Alistair Griffiths, director of science at the RHS Centre for Horticultural Science and Learning, highlights the benefits of four types of wellbeing garden: Protective, Healing, Nourishing and Sustainable. Each chapter is dedicated to the benefits of each type, while practical design advice from Matt Keightley shows how to put ideas into practice.

Reviewer Katie Dutton is editorial assistant for Gardens Illustrated.


THE WELL GARDENED MIND
REDISCOVERING NATURE IN THE MODERN WORLD
SUE STUART-SMITH

THE WELL GARDENED MIND

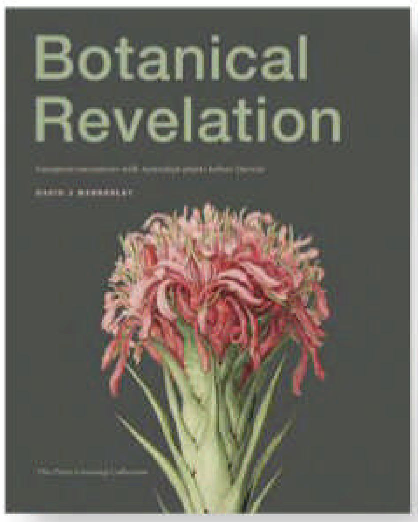
by Sue Stuart-Smith,
Harper Collins, £20,
ISBN 978-0008100711

This is a book so wise and comfortable that it merits a place by the side of every bed. The book's main tenet is simple: that our gardens and nature are vital to our wellbeing. Stuart-Smith leads us gently through case studies, literary references and fascinating historic vignettes to show clearly what has been hiding in plain sight: that we are part of nature and that we need to cultivate our connection with it in order to thrive.

Reviewer Marian Boswall is a landscape architect and garden writer.

Grow Fruit & Vegetables In Pots

RHS Your Wellbeing Garden

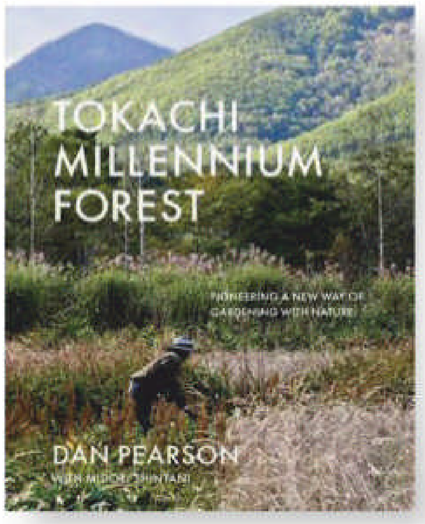

Botanical Revelation
David J Mabberley

BOTANICAL REVELATION

by David J Mabberley,
NewSouth Books, £51.95,
ISBN 978-1742236476

Botanical Revelation is not light reading. It is so densely packed with knowledge and incident that you may need a large pot of coffee and several reference books to make the most of it. But the text is leavened unstintingly with botanical illustrations and with facsimiles of historical herbarium specimens, which bring a particular immediacy to the account; all efforts to delve into this book will be more than amply repaid.

Reviewer Rory Dusoir is a Kew-trained gardener and writer.

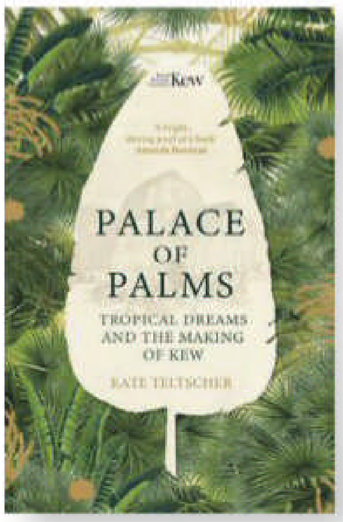

TOKACHI MILLENNIUM FOREST
PIONEERING A NEW WAY OF GARDENING WITH NATURE
DAN PEARSON
WITH MIDORI SHINTANI

TOKACHI MILLENNIUM FOREST

by Dan Pearson with Midori Shintani, Filbert Press, £40,
ISBN 978-1999734541

The centrepiece of Dan Pearson's design for the Tokachi Millennium Forest is the Meadow Garden, an immersive celebration of indigenous plants and selections of them. A third of the book is devoted to a detailed description of how this matrix was developed and continues to be managed, with a light hand, by head gardener Midori Shintani and her team, and this provides a masterclass in naturalistic planting.

Reviewer Annie Gatti is a freelance garden writer.

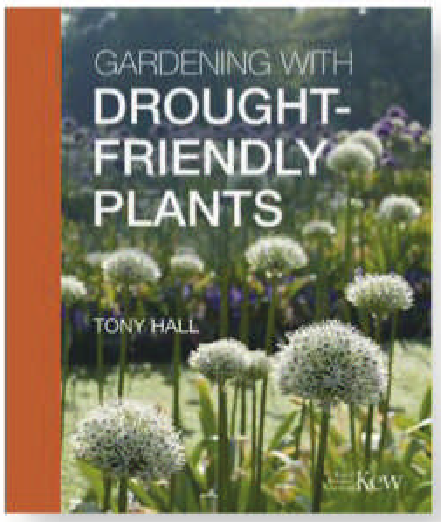

Kew
PALACE OF PALMS
TROPICAL DREAMS AND THE MAKING OF KEW
KATE TELTSCHER

PALACE OF PALMS

by Kate Teltscher,
Picador, £25,
ISBN 978-1529004854

Cultural historian Kate Teltscher sets out to tell the human story of the iconic Palm House at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the men who conceived, realised and maintained this extraordinary edifice. Wearing her research lightly, Teltscher tells her tale of politicking and financial wrangles, domestic tragedies and epic plant hunting expeditions with a pace and vibrancy more commonly found in novels than in academic study.

Reviewer Jodie Jones is a freelance garden writer.


GARDENING WITH DROUGHT-FRIENDLY PLANTS
TONY HALL
Kew

GARDENING WITH DROUGHT-FRIENDLY PLANTS

by Tony Hall,
Kew Publishing, £25,
ISBN 978-1842467091

The main part of this timely guide to plants that will flourish in hot, dry summers is a comprehensive encyclopaedia of plants tried and tested by the author to be able to thrive in dry conditions. More than 200 plants are catalogued, with sections on bulbs, annuals, grasses, perennials, shrubs and trees, alongside, most usefully, details of the author's experience of the plant.

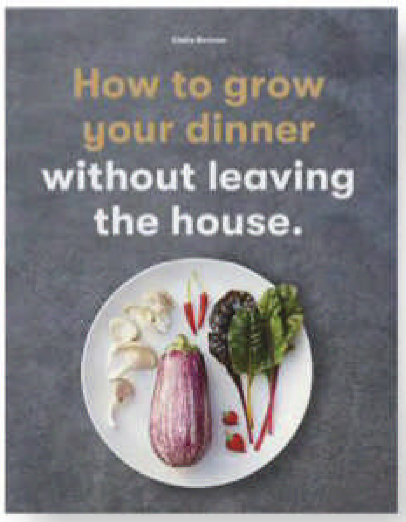
Reviewer John Hoyland is a plantsman and writer.

Turn the page for your chance to win all 14 books

Botanical Revelation

Gardening With Drought-Friendly Plants

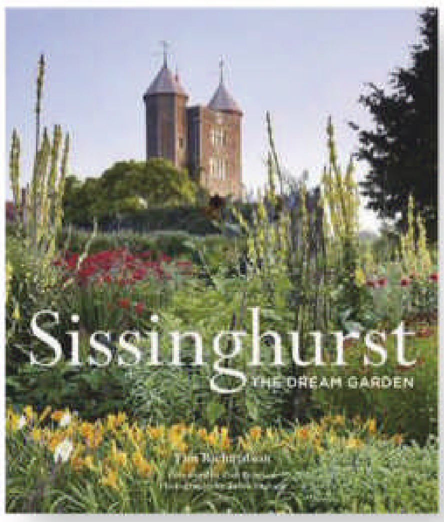
BOOK REVIEWS


Claire Ratinon
How to grow your dinner without leaving the house.

HOW TO GROW YOUR DINNER: WITHOUT LEAVING THE HOUSE
by Claire Ratinon,
Laurence King Publishing, £12.99,
ISBN 978-1786277145

Author Claire Ratinon understands that space for growing veg might not be much more than a few hanging baskets outside a window; she is also experienced in all the nuances of city growing from lugging containers to top-floor flats to the need for small-scale nutrient production, such as a wormery. As an engaging guide to getting going, I hope it gets a whole new generation hooked.

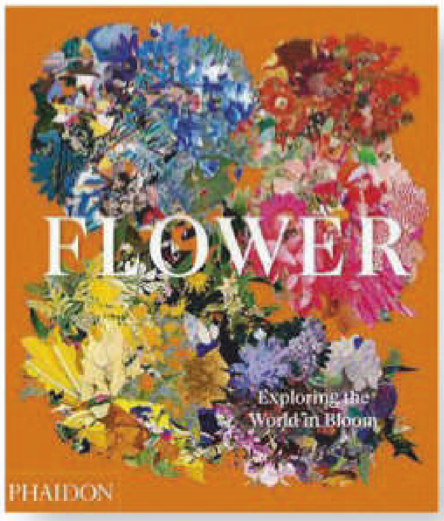
Reviewer Alys Fowler is a garden writer and horticulturist.


Sissinghurst
THE DREAM GARDEN
Tim Richardson

SISSINGHURST: THE DREAM GARDEN
by Tim Richardson,
Frances Lincoln, £30,
ISBN 978-0711237346

The most up-to-date exploration of the garden, how it was created and why it remains so loved. Bringing the story up to date, Richardson reveals how, since the appointment of Dan Pearson as 'godparent', and under the tenure of Troy Scott Smith, the garden has once more regained the tone and feel of Harold and Vita's intensely personal retreat. Part horticultural tour and part exploration of the dreamlike qualities of the garden's spaces.

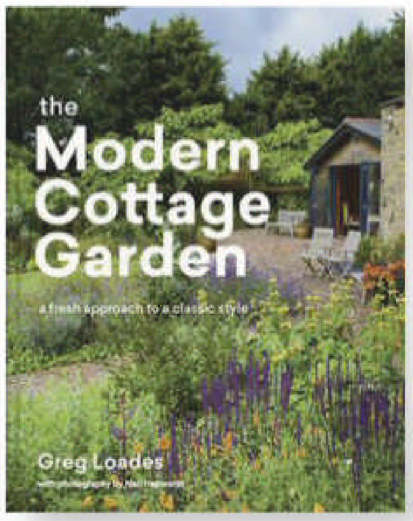
Reviewer Annie Gatti is a freelance garden writer.


FLOWER
Exploring the World in Bloom
PHAIDON

FLOWER: EXPLORING THE WORLD IN BLOOM
by Phaidon Editors,
Phaidon, £39.95,
ISBN 978-1838660857

Images from across the ages are presented on facing pages, each picture echoing the other in its impressions of a flower or flowers. By comparing the archaic with the contemporary, we are reminded that, though the years and context between the images may be vast, the artist's relationship and fascination with their subject is steadfast. A captivating catalogue of flowers, as depicted in art throughout the ages.

Reviewer Katie Dutton is editorial assistant for Gardens Illustrated*.*


the
Modern
Cottage
Garden
a fresh approach to a classic style
Greg Loades

THE MODERN COTTAGE GARDEN
by Greg Loades,
Timber Press, £18.99,
ISBN 978-1604699081

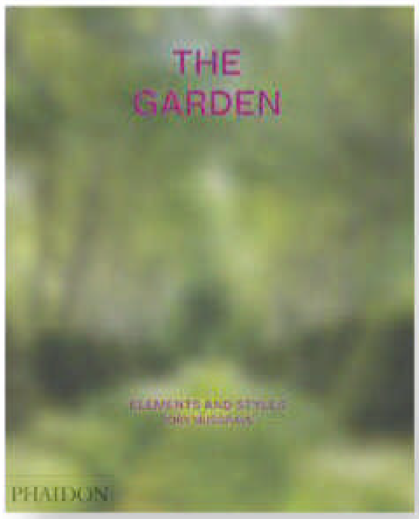
New Perennial planting has lately achieved an indelible impact on how we view gardens. While this style answers well to the problems of large-scale landscapes, what of the domestic gardener, anxious to squeeze as much colour and joy as possible from a small plot? In this title, Loades advocates incorporating elements of modern planting style into the traditional cottage garden idiom, and includes some of its key plants.

Reviewer Rory Dusoir is a Kew-trained gardener and writer.

Other plants to grow as salad leaves

How to Grow Your Dinner: Without Leaving the House

Flower: Exploring the World in Bloom


THE GARDEN
ELEMENTS AND STYLES
PHAIDON

MARK LANE
ROYAL GARDENS OF THE WORLD

THE GARDEN: ELEMENTS AND STYLES
by Dr Toby Musgrave,
Phaidon, £49.95,
ISBN 978-1838660765

A journey through 3,000 years of garden making that covers gardens and planting styles, from the first Islamic gardens of the seventh century to Piet Oudolf's currently voguish New Perennial planting style. This title may well grace the shelves of many a student of garden design, but it will just as easily appeal to plant lovers who may want to delve into the sumptuous photography while learning a thing or two about the wonders of the garden.

Reviewer Rae Spencer-Jones is books publisher at the RHS.

ROYAL GARDENS OF THE WORLD
by Mark Lane,
Kyle Books, £35,
ISBN 978-0857838018

In this delightful book, garden designer and BBC *Gardeners' World* presenter Mark Lane takes you on his personally curated Grand Tour, through Europe to India, Japan and Bali, to visit 21 famous royal gardens he believes have had an impact on garden design and history. In these days of restricted travel, it is a pleasure to visit these great royal gardens from your own armchair and to share this labour of love from an erudite enthusiast.

Reviewer Matthew Biggs is a Kew-trained gardener and presenter.

The Garden: Elements and Styles

WIN
ALL 14 OF OUR BOOKS OF THE YEAR

We have one set of all 14 of our best books from 2020 to give away. Test your gardening knowledge to win.

Sissinghurst
GARDENING WITH DROUGHT-FRIENDLY PLANTS
TONY HALL
the Modern Cottage Garden
Botanical Revelation
TOKACHI MILLENNIUM FOREST
DAN PEARSON
THE GARDEN
ROYAL GARDENS OF THE WORLD
FLOWER
PHAIDON
GROW FRUIT & VEGETABLES IN POTS
Your Wellbeing Garden
How to grow your dinner without leaving the house.
Rootbound Rewilding a Life
THE WELL GARDENED MIND
SUE STUART-SMITH
PALACE OF PALMS

TO ENTER

For your chance to win go to **gardensillustrated.com/bookscompetition** and complete your entry. You'll need to answer the following question:

Andy Warhol's iconic *Flowers* is featured in Phaidon's *Flower: Exploring the World in Bloom*. The artist has a plant named after him – or more accurately his hair. What type of plant is it?

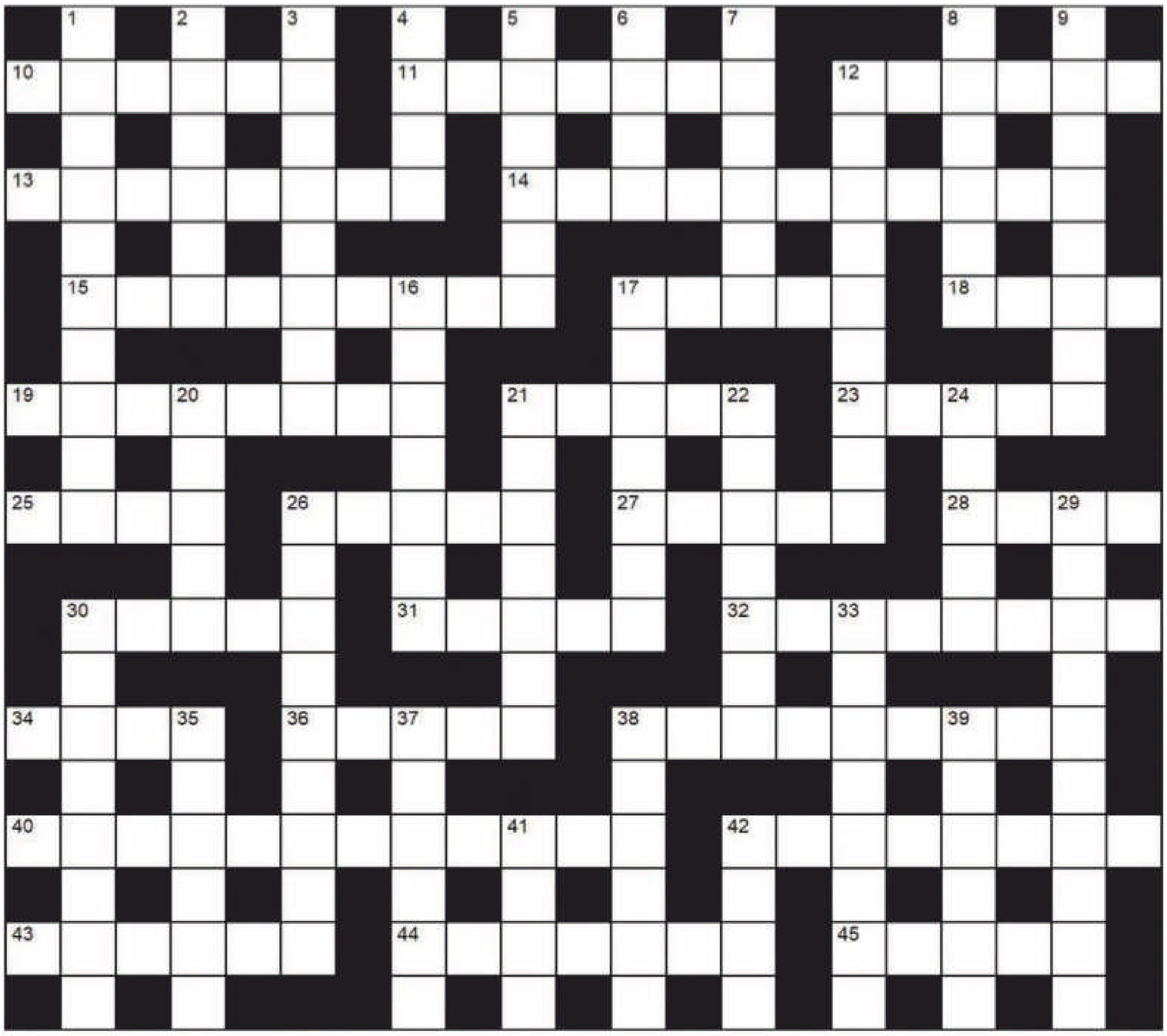
a) Hemerocallis
b) Helianthus
c) Hebe

CLOSING DATE **3 January 2021***

*All entries must be received by 11.59pm on 3 January 2021.
To enter you must be over 18 and resident in the UK, including the Channel Islands.
Full terms and conditions can be found at gardensillustrated.com/bookscompetition

Christmas crossword

Test your horticultural word skill in our bumper Christmas crossword



SOLUTIONS TO THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD WILL BE PRINTED IN THE JANUARY ISSUE

SOLUTIONS TO NOVEMBER'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Obedient **6** Repot **9** Disc **10** Debug **11/20** Corn marigold **12** Laurel **14** Calathea **15** Plumbago **17** Crest **18** Berry **22** Clematis **24** Sunset **26** Tree **27** Skirt **29** Etna **30** Agave **31** Amaranth.

DOWN 2 Briza **3** Decorum **4** End **5** Tobacco **6** Regal **7** Picotee **8** Tormentil **13** Leafy **16** Lobularia **17** Cores **19** Romneya **20** Mystica **21** Gunnera **23** Taste **25** Ernst **28** Tea.

ACROSS

10 Genus of upright wild ginger, an anagram of its relative, *Asarum*! (6)

11 Genus of daisy bush, or New Zealand holly (7)

12 Seed case of vegetable in *Pisum* genus (6)

13 Monkshood and wolf's bane (8)

14 *Viburnum* shrub, aka 'Snowball tree' – sort of grouse elder (7,4)

15/6 A named hosta with puckered, creamy-white edged leaves – traditionally decorated at this time of year? (9,4)

17 A pea with long curved, boat-shaped pods, hence its name? (5)

18 World's first garden – in Odense, Denmark (4)

19 Common name of *Delosperma cooperi* 'Jewel of Desert Peridott' (3,5)

21 To grow a plant up a wall, say… needs time and wet weather (5)

23 *Ginkgo biloba* cultivar for a provocative internet poster? (5)

25 Term for a lower petal of a bearded iris (4)

26 Rosemary and Basil, say (5)

27 A series of strong-stemmed dahlias – 'Buddhist's Fate' (5)

28 Holly genus (4)

30 Fine, what clay soil will do when wet! (5)

31 Trim back eg hedge – vertically, it's said (5)

32 A purple-stemmed salvia with violet blooms… 'Swain's Lovesong'? (8)

34 See 7 down

36 Henry John __, 19th-century snowdrop fanatic… hidden in laurel, Westonbirt (5)

38 Ornamental allium with large rose-purple flowers – eg Spartacus (9)

40 A floribunda rose with russet brown flowers – provides a warming cocoa drink (3,9)

42 Mallow family member resembling compact hollyhock – "Unusual," said Alec (8)

43 Thermal wear used to protect plants in winter? (6)

44 Genus of ragged robin and Jerusalem cross (7)

45 It's a pure-white rhododendron, duck! (5)

DOWN

1 ____ *confusa* commonly called Christmas box (10)

2 A type of bean's… surface-spreading root? (6)

3 Heavy-cropping, large-fruited blackberry… if Santa mixed up one (8)

4 Before campion it's *Silene acaulis* (4)

5 Grass-like plants… in naturalised gesneriads (6)

6 See 15 across

7/34 Delicate fern, *Adiantum venustum*, provided by young girl with a mop! (10)

8 Dusky, violet-pink, veined geranium cultivar – 'Veiled Dancer' (6)

9 Organic fertiliser from ground animal matter (8)

12 Former genus of berried shrub, now *Gaultheria* – try nepeta, anyway (9)

16 Ripens – when Nature's given a new start (7)

17 An orange-red dianthus – cheerily pulled at Christmas? (7)

20 Seed of leguminous plant (5)

21 Eg the grey-green catkins of *Garrya elliptica* (7)

22 A Greatorex double snowdrop… some gardener is saving (7)

24 Allium plant that may produce a tear (5)

26 The 'niger' species of this plant is often called 'Christmas Rose' (9)

29 Fruit of *Sambucus nigra* used in wine and jelly (10)

30 Spiky plant in *Eryngium* genus – the main plant for Christmas decoration! (3,5)

33 Former name of *Wisteria sinensis* f. *alba* 'Jako' – one provider of Christmas transport? (8)

35 Peppery salad leaf – duly removed from rehashed cold turkey (6)

37 Description of lamb's ears leaves – vague (6)

38 Environmentalists' vegetables (6)

39 Long-stemmed leek with dark leaves – looted, possibly (6)

41 Curved shape… found in regular chard (4)

42 Initially spring onions, repeated – neither good nor bad! (2-2)

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

Join *Gardens Illustrated* online

Don't miss all the exclusive features, videos, interviews and our new series of online masterclasses on gardensillustrated.com

Head to our homepage for all you need to know about what plants to buy when, how-to gardening guides, up-to-the-minute news and our exclusive online masterclasses with leading designers and plantspeople. Follow us on Instagram to see Q&As with garden designers, inspiring images and videos from gardens throughout the world. Join our garden community on Twitter and Facebook, and sign up to the Kitted Out newsletter for our pick of the best gardening products around.

gardensillustrated.com

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
Subscribe
LATEST
GARDEN DESIGN
GARDENS
CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW
ADVICE
PLANTS
KIT
Latest articles
Virtual Che
GI
#Dress Up for Chelsea

30 of the most influential people in gardening

Christopher Woodward, director of the Garden Museum, picks 30 of the most vibrant and exciting voices in gardening today

By Christopher Woodward

READER OFFERS

FREE Niwaki canvas tote bag when you spend over £100

Niwaki believes in using the best tools available for the garden task in hand. The range of tools and equipment may hail from Japan but they are perfect for western gardens too. As owner and founder Jake Hobson says, "Tripod ladders, it turns out, are just as useful for hedge trimming as they are for pine pruning; and of course topiary clippers work just as well on box topiary as they do on *karikomi* shaping of azaleas."

And what started as a focus on tripod ladders and fine pruning tools, now takes in a much more extensive range of products and 'great stuff from Japan' – as the company's tagline now reads.

OFFER

Spend over £100 on Niwaki products and receive a free Daikon Tote Bag worth £32. The Diakon Tote is made of water-resistant canvas and features a large inner pocket, hand and shoulder straps and popper fastener. Deep enough to hold shears, or perfect for garden visits with note book and umbrella at the ready.

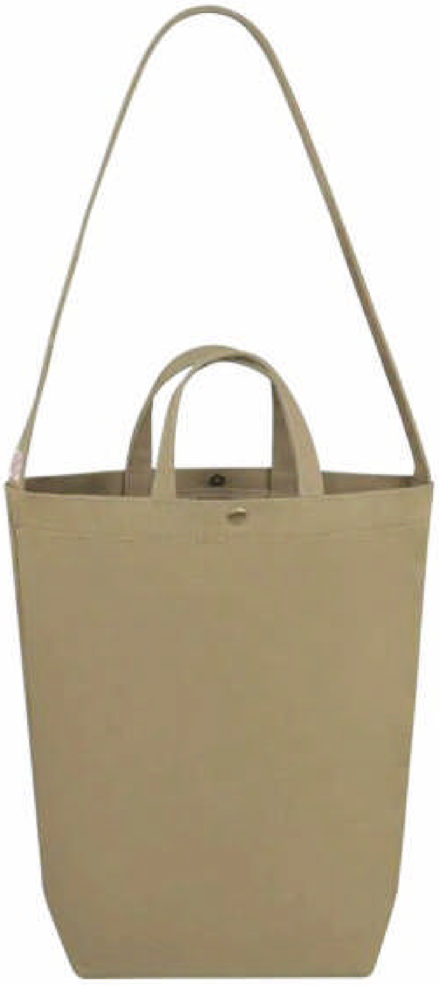
HOW TO ORDER

Go to niwaki.com to view Niwaki's range of tools and accessories. When placing your order of over £100, use the code **GITOTE** when prompting. Alternatively, use **niwaki.com/gitote** and the offer will activate automatically.

Offer closes 11.59pm on 31 January 2021.

T&Cs One Diakon Tote per customer (while stocks last). Offer does not apply to tree orders or workshop booking.

Niwaki®
Great stuff from Japan



SAVE on this selection of species hellebores from Woottens of Wenhaston

Bring interest to the winter garden with this selection of species hellebores that offer a variety of flower and leaf form. Most hellebore species are incredibly frost tolerant, some are evergreen and their most valuable garden feature is their tolerance to shade/dry shade.

OFFER*

Choose either a collection of one of each of the hellebores shown, or three plants of one species. Save on buying plants individually. Supplied as young plants in 9cm pots.

MAKE YOUR ORDER A CHRISTMAS GIFT

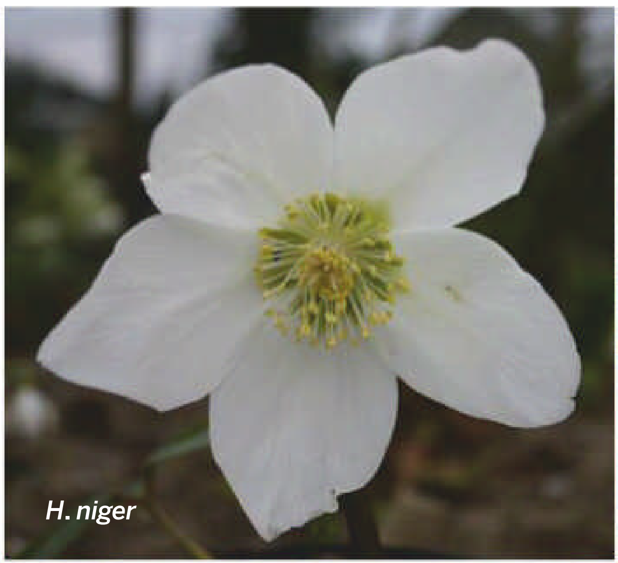
You can easily add a different delivery address when ordering, plus add a gift card by putting your personal message in the order notes box at the checkout. Make it an extra special gift by adding a gift voucher for your loved one to spend at Woottens in the spring. Vouchers added on this exclusive offer are discounted by 10%. Note: vouchers must be purchased in conjunction with the Hellebore offer.

Postage Charged at £7.50. All deliveries are made via overnight courier. For multiple offers postage cost will increase in small increments. See website for full details.

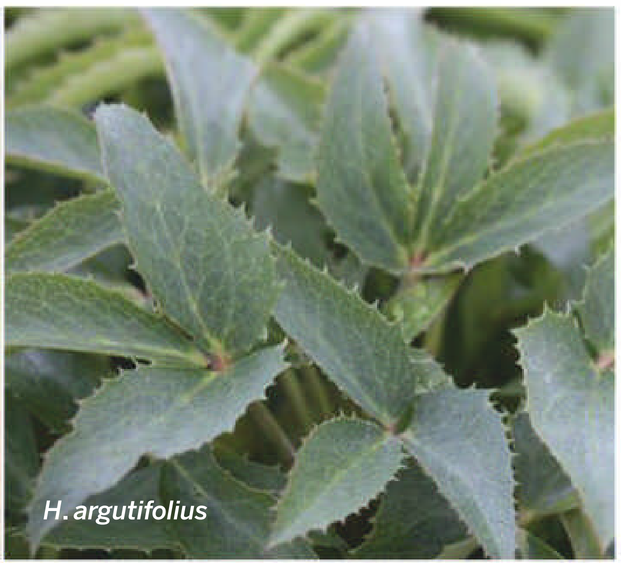
HOW TO ORDER

- **By phone** 01502 478258, quoting the plant offer code for the collection(s) you would like. Phone lines currently open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9am-5pm.
- **Online** at woottensplants.com. Click on the Offers tab to find these options. You must add your plant offer code in the order notes box at the checkout to qualify for the offer.
- **By post** please include details of the collection required, your name and address, telephone, or email and a cheque made payable to Woottens of Wenhaston Ltd. Send your order to: Woottens of Wenhaston, The Iris Field, Hall Road, Wenhaston, Suffolk IP19 9HF.

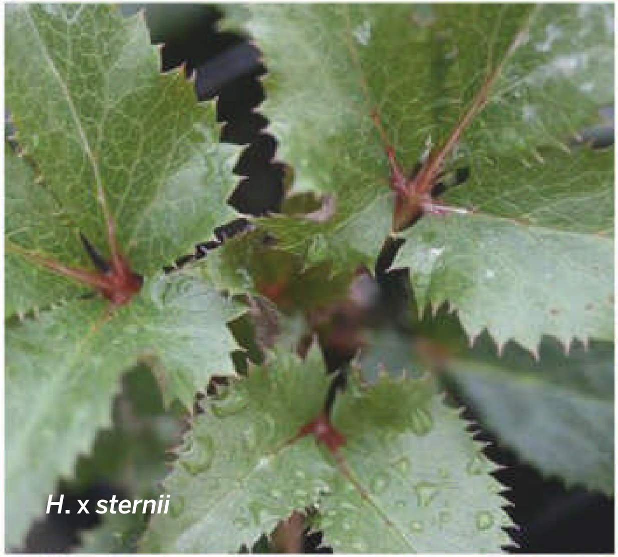
Offer closes 31 January 2021. Orders dispatched from 7 December 2020. Order by 21 December 2020 for Christmas delivery. *Offer available while stocks last. Available to mainland UK only. Species/cultivars may be substituted depending on availability.



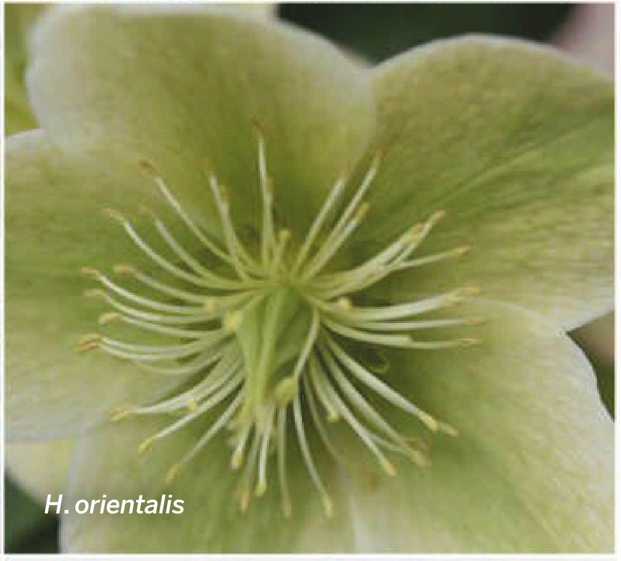
H. niger



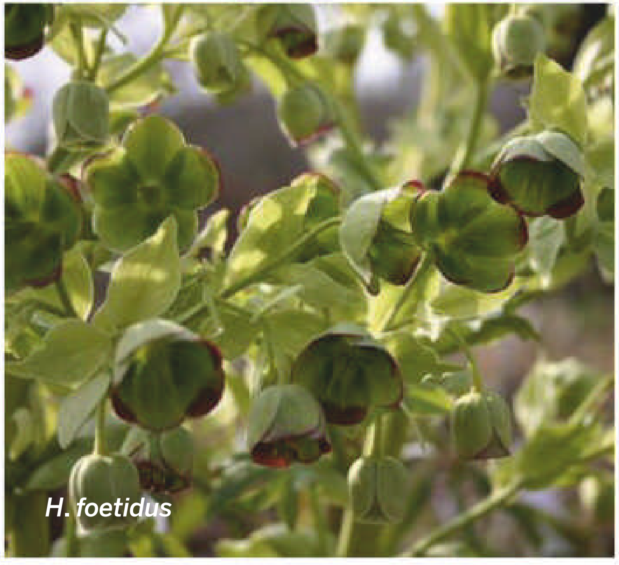
H. argutifolius



H. x sternii



H. orientalis



H. foetidus

- **OFFER ONE***

Code XMASROSE1
One each of the species hellebores for £24
plus £7.50 P&P (20% off)

£24
plus £7.50 p&p

- **OFFER TWO***

Code XMASROSE2
Your choice of 3 of the same species for £15
plus £7.50 P&P (15% off)

£15
plus £7.50 p&p

Helleborus niger Commonly called the Christmas rose (although it normally flowers January to March), it is a Woottens' favourite and has pure-white flowers and glossy, dark-green foliage. A robust garden plant worthy of its AGM. Prefers a moist soil and will grow in the sun or part shade. H 30cm. AGM.

Helleborus argutifolius Also known as the Corsican or holly-leaved hellebore. Thick, evergreen, glaucous foliage with a toothed edge and pale-green, bowl-shaped flowers in late winter and early spring. A wonderful architectural specimen. Plant in well-drained soil. H 60cm.

Helleborus x sternii A stunning species cross from *H. argutifolius* (syn *H. corsicus*) x *H. lividus* with the most handsome, deep-red stems and green-grey, softly marbled foliage. Pale-pink and green flowers from December to March. May need a sheltered spot in more exposed areas. Prefers full sun in well-drained soil. H 60cm.

Helleborus orientalis Commonly called the Lenten rose. Plants of this species have been highly hybridised, whether deliberately or naturally, giving rise to a wide range of colours – these are often now called *H.* x *hybridus* and can prolifically self-seed in the garden. Flowers February to April and thrives in dry shade. H 60cm.

Helleborus foetidus Don't be swayed by its common name of the stinking hellebore – this is a stunning plant. Native to mountainous regions of southern and central Europe, this species looks very different from its cousins. Huge, deep-cut leaves, thick stems and cascades of green pendular flowers rich in nectar and attractive to early bees. Self-seeds readily. Happy in shade/part shade, in well-drained soil. H 90cm.

BUYING BACK ISSUES OF
GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

PRINT VERSION
You can buy printed issues of the magazine published up to six months ago. See below for details.

DIGITAL VERSION
Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition – see page 32

CLOTHBOUND SLIPCASES
Cost from £9.99 each (inc p&p). *Subscriber discounts available – see below for details.*

TO ORDER PRINTED COPIES OR SLIPCASES
UNITED KINGDOM 03330 162114
OUTSIDE UK +44 1604 973722

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED PRINTED ISSUES ORDER FORM
Complete this form and send to: *Gardens Illustrated*, Back Issues, PO Box 3320, 3 Queensbridge, Northampton NN4 7BF (You may photocopy this form).

SINGLE ISSUES
I would like to order ________ copy/copies of issue(s)________

SUBSCRIBERS
☐UK £4.79 per copy
☐EU £5.59 per copy
☐Rest of world £6.39 per copy

NON-SUBSCRIBERS
☐UK £5.99 per copy
☐EU £6.99 per copy
☐Rest of world £7.99 per copy

CLOTHBOUND SLIPCASES
I would like to order ________slipcase(s)

SUBSCRIBERS
☐UK £8.49 each
☐EU £9.45 each
☐Rest of world £10.80 each

NON-SUBSCRIBERS
☐UK £9.99 each
☐EU £10.50 each
☐Rest of world £12 each

Postage & packaging is included in all prices.

PAYMENT DETAILS
☐I enclose a cheque/international money order made payable to *Gardens Illustrated* for £ ________
☐I would like to pay by credit/debit card, please debit my card
Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐
☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐
Expiry date ☐☐☐☐ Issue no. (if shown) ☐☐
Signature Date / /

YOUR DETAILS
Title Forename
Surname
Address

Post/Zip code
Daytime tel no.
Email address
Subscriber number (if applicable)

KEEP IN TOUCH
Gardens Illustrated (published by Immediate Media Company Limited) would like to send you updates, special offers and promotions by email. You can unsubscribe at any time.
Please tick here if you would like to receive these ☐
We would also like to keep in touch by post and telephone about other relevant offers and promotions from Immediate Media. If you do not wish to be contacted this way please tick here post ☐ phone ☐. For more information about how to change the way we contact you, and how we hold your personal information, please see our privacy policy, which can be viewed online at policies.immediate.co.uk/privacy

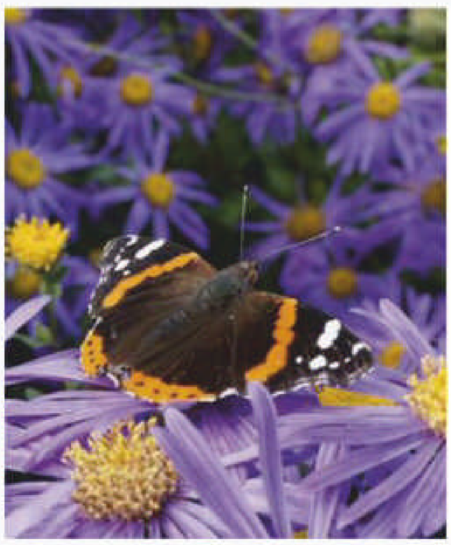
Stockists

Find the perfect Christmas presents, page 21.

Block Design 01503 230003, blockdesign.co.uk
Cambridge Imprint 07732 131135, cambridgeimprint.co.uk
Connox 020 3880 0027, connox.co.uk
The Conran Shop 0344 848 4000, conranshop.co.uk
Fenwick 0800 783 1783, fenwick.co.uk
Floral Street 020 7836 3366, floralstreet.com
The Future Kept thefuturekept.com
Green & Blue 01872 858658, greenandblue.co.uk
Höfats +49 831 98 90 94 60, hoefats.com/en
Labour and Wait 020 7729 6253, labourandwait.co.uk
Le Chameau 01572 772444, lechameau.com
Leaf Envy leafenvy.co.uk
Lewes Map Store lewesmapstore.co.uk
Maisons du Monde 0808 234 2172 maisonsdumonde.com
Nest 0114 243 3000, nest.co.uk
Niwaki 01747 445059, niwaki.com
Northern Hands 07784 784899, northern-hands-uk.com
Objects of Use 01865 241705, objectsofuse.com
Oliver Bonas 020 8974 0110, oliverbonas.com
Sarah Raven 0345 092 0283, sarahraven.com
Seedlip seedlipdrinks.com
The Shop Floor Project 01229 584537, theshopfloorproject.com
Studio Wald studiowald.co.uk
Wanderlust Paper Co wanderlustpaper.co
Yard Etc +46 (0)761 339978, yardetc.com

2021 Nursery guide

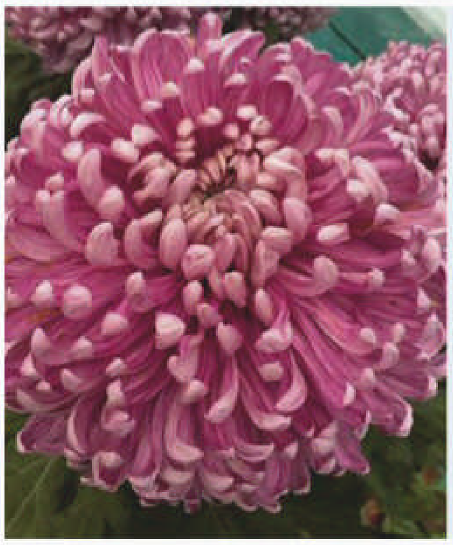
Get inspired for the winter season with the best plant and bulb suppliers



OLD COURT NURSERIES

Michaelmas daisy specialists since 1906. Asters, late season perennials, succulents and more available by mail order. Catalogue available by request or online. Now is a perfect time to plan your 2021 autumn displays.

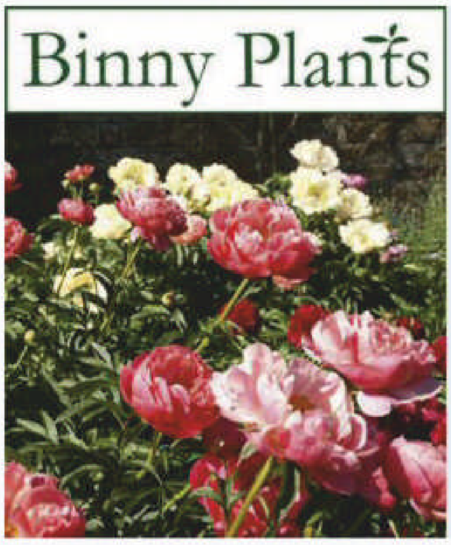
autumnasters.co.uk
01684 540416



CHRYSANTHEMUMS DIRECT

Chrysanthemums Direct offers the widest range of chrysanthemum plants to UK growers. With over 420 varieties to choose from, including hardy garden and exhibition cultivars, we are sure to have something to tempt you.

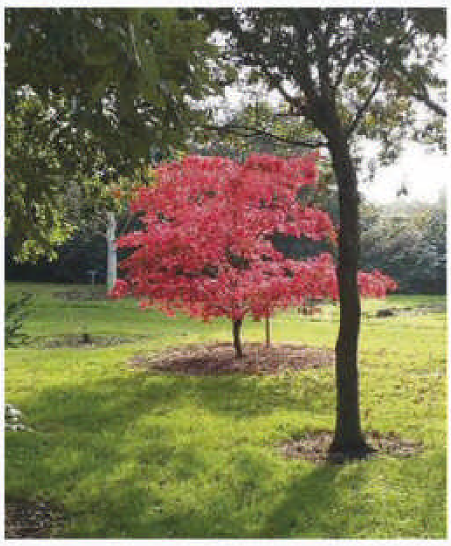
chrysanthemumsdirect.co.uk
0800 046 7443



BINNY PLANTS

2020/21 catalogue online. Over 250 herbaceous, intersectional, and tree peonies ready for October/November delivery. Printed catalogue – 4 x 1st class stamps to – Binny Plants, Ecclesmachan, EH526NL. Over 1,500 perennials, grasses, shrubs and ferns.

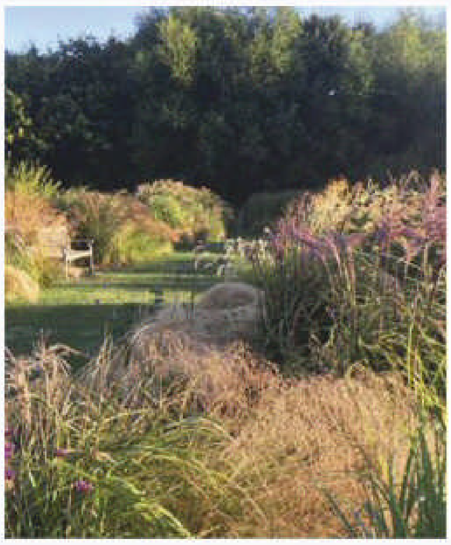
binnyplants.com
contact@binnyplants.com



BLUEBELL ARBORETUM & NURSERY

Specialists in hardy trees, shrubs and climbers including a huge selection of unusual species and varieties. Informative website and a reliable mail-order service is available.

bluebellnursery.com
01530 413700



MEADOWGATE NURSERY

A family-run, independent nursery, specialising in ornamental grasses. Over ten years' experience in growing a diverse range of grasses. We offer tailored advice on the use and care of the grasses we sell.

meadowgatenursery.co.uk
07736 523262

EDULIS NURSERY

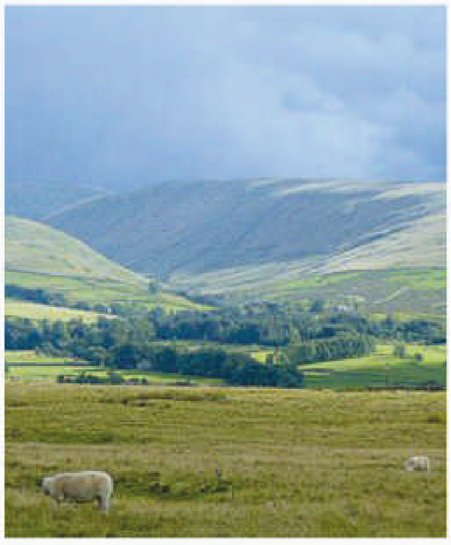
The nursery grows an eclectic mix of rare plants, including a large selection of unusual edible plants as well as many rare shady plants. Most plants in the nursery are hardy and relatively easy to grow.

edulis.co.uk
07802 812781

WOOTTENS OF WENHASTON

Christmas shop now available on the website. Wreaths, festive plant gifts and vouchers. Order before 21 December for Christmas delivery. 10% off with coupon FESTIVE20.

woottensplants.com
01502 478258



WEASDALE NURSERIES LTD

Hardy trees and shrubs from hardy beginnings at an elevation of 260m above sea level. Ask for a copy of our splendid 124-page mail order catalogue today.

weasdale.com
015396 23246

Christmas Gift Guide

BACKDOORSHOES

Backdoorshoes are lightweight, waterproof and easy to slip off/on. Further designs available online, sizes UK 3-14 from £31.95, including standard postage.

01202 232357 | backdoorshoes.co.uk

WONDERLAND BOUTIQUE

A pure-silk scarf is a perfect gift. The Silk Scarf shown is £39, which includes gift wrapping and p&p and can be sent directly to the recipient.

01263 732643 | wonderlandboutique.com

ARPE STUDIO UK

High-quality stainless steel fire pits look immaculate all year round – no matter what weather conditions they are exposed to.

020 3290 8690 | arpestudio.co.uk

A PRACTICALLY PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

HARRIS DRYBOOT

Washable, quick-drying, cushion lined, reinforced 'digging' sole, deep gusset for easy access, top-quality natural rubber, and guaranteed waterproof. Only £69.99, plus p&p.

07974 977112 | thedrybootcompany.com

MISTY CASHMERE

Our sustainable yak jumper is a best-seller. Natural, undyed, hypoallergenic! Gift wrapping service. 10% off with code GI10. Call for a brochure.

01273 401827 | mistycashmere.co.uk

PERILLA

Luxurious alpaca walking socks with hand-linked toe seams. Seven other ranges are available in a fabulous palette of colours.

01886 853615 | perilla.co.uk

PRODUCTS

Fireguards for stoves

Handmade in Britain

catalogue available
01225 851577
garden-requisites.co.uk

GARDEN REQUISITES

THE ENGLISH PANELLING COMPANY

01453 731305

Panelling made Affordable!

Our Jacobean design shown above is made up of less than £150 worth of our high quality moisture resistant MDF panels!

www.englishpanelling.com

VACANCY

HEAD GARDENER

Rural Estate, North Northumberland

THE ROLE

To work with the owner in developing the many areas of the garden:

- 1 acre walled garden
- Extensive woodland garden
- Long established meadow
- Vegetable garden and Polytunnel

There is an experienced but retiring Groundsman/Handyman and a successor is being sought for that role too. The estate has been called 'Northumberland's hidden gem'. The house and gardens sit beautifully in remarkable landscape.

Accommodation is provided – a two bedroom Gate Lodge or loft-style flat in the C18th stable block.

Experience and training in a similar garden is vital, in particular in long border management, propagation, disease and weed control. Verbal references from up to 3 former employers will be taken up. Salary will be discussed on interview.

Candidates with a partner with skills appropriate to any of the aspects of estate management should include mention of that in applying.

Please respond to Jo Dixon on jodixon@jldresource.co.uk 07879 996336

Andrew Crace

www.andrewcrace.com

Slatted Wheelbarrow Seat

Leagrave 2 Seater

Peacock 3 Seater

Park Seat on Skids

Large Lutyens Seat

Made in the UK

Made from Iroko or Oak

33 Bourne Lane, Much Hadham
Herts SG10 6ER, UK. Tel 01279 842685
www.andrewcrace.com

ALITAGS PLANT LABELS

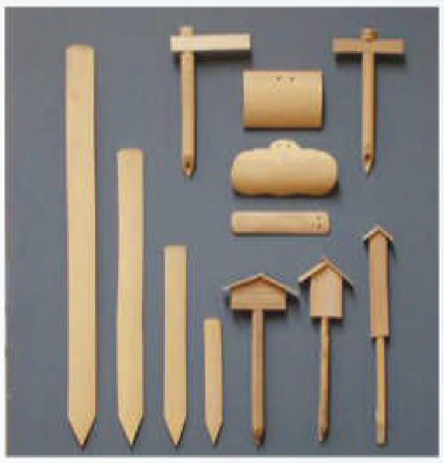
www.alitags.com

Annual labelling is a thing of the past with Alitags. Simply write on Alitags aluminium labels with Alitags or HB pencil. The pencil will react with our specially made aluminium tags and become permanent.

Alitags labels can also be punched with Alitags character punches & jig.

Copper, Teak, Bamboo labels are also available.

Alitags, 33 Bourne Lane,
Much Hadham,
Hertfordshire SG10 6ER, UK.
Tel 01279 842685



Gifts & Gardens

www.giftsandgardens.com

SHED
COTTAGE
GATE HOUSE
NURSERY
FAMILY ROOM
GARDEN ROOM
GUEST ROOM
BOOT ROOM
CHICKENS
BARN
DRAWING ROOM
BEDROOM

Wooden Keyrings - 90 Locations available

I LOVE YOU
WELCOME TO MY GARDEN
BEWARE OF THE PUSSY
I'M IN THE STABLES
WE'RE IN THE GARDEN
COME TO THE BACK DOOR
PLEASE SHUT THE GATE
JE SUIS DANS LE JARDIN

Hanging Wooden Signs : 60 Texts

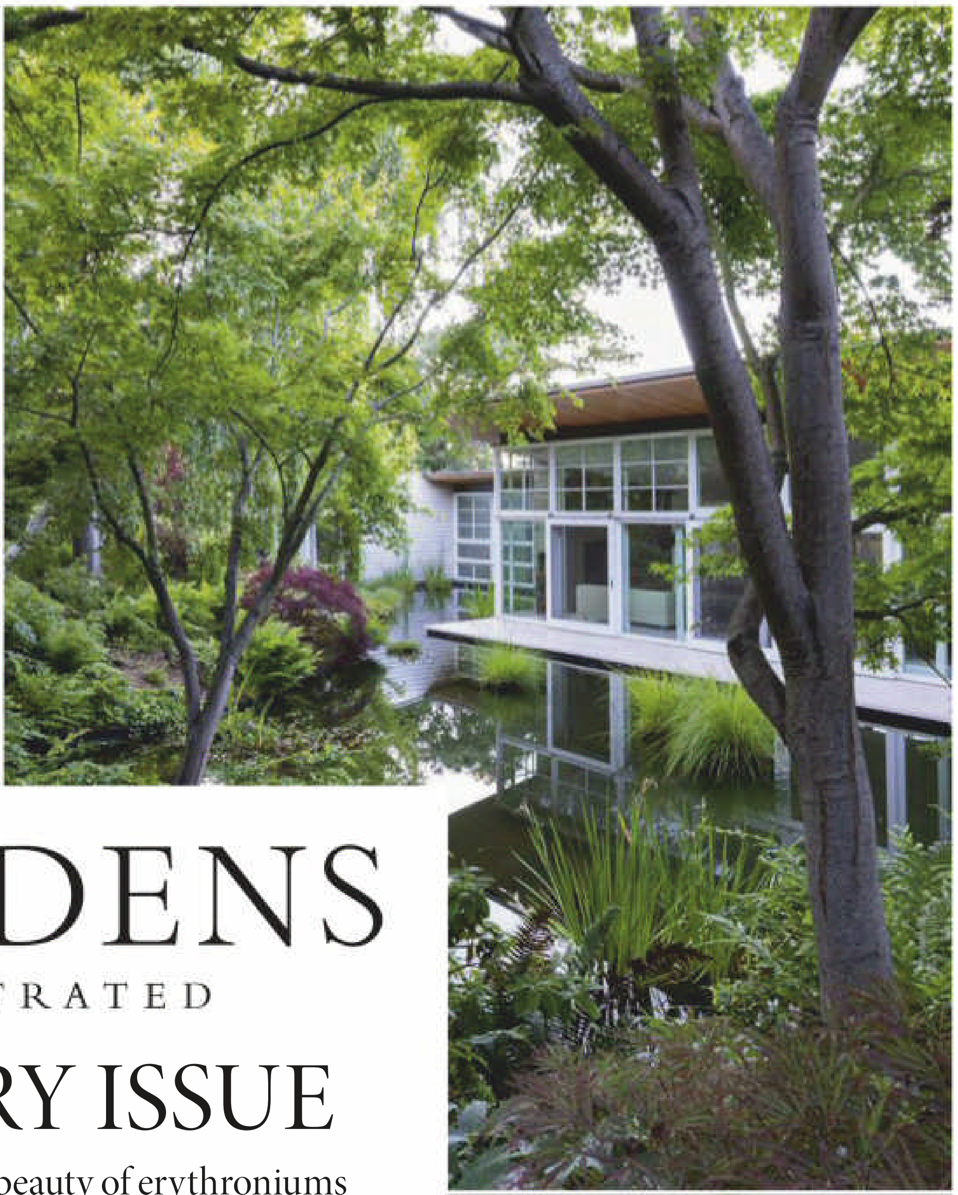
GARDEN FRIENDS.

Made of aluminium that will not rust, painted by hand on both sides. Suitable for outdoor gardens.

CANDLE LANTERNS

Have a window at the back with a small tray inside for a tea light candle.

33 Bourne Lane, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire SG10 6ER, UK. Tel 01279 842685



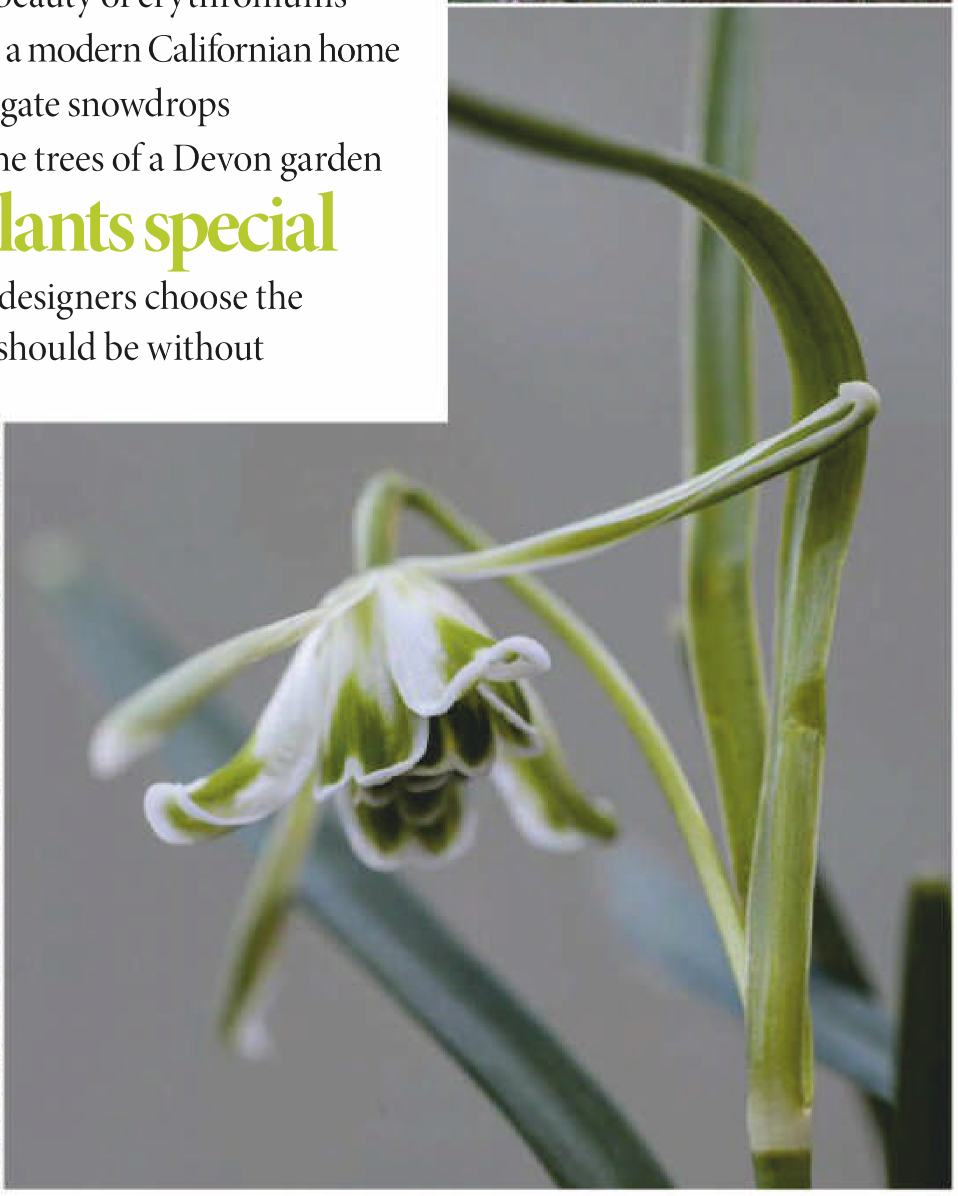
GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

JANUARY ISSUE

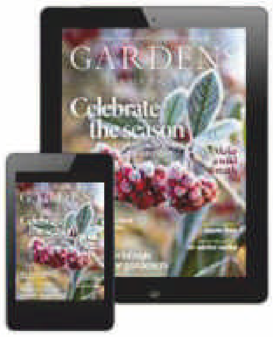
- Discover the delicate beauty of erythroniums
- Tranquil forest planting for a modern Californian home
- How to propagate snowdrops
- Early delights beneath the trees of a Devon garden

PLUS 100 plants special

Five leading garden designers choose the plants no garden should be without



TORIE CHUGG, RICHARD BLOOM, JASON INGRAM.



ON SALE 4 JANUARY

Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition – see page 32. Also in selected Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Tesco stores, as well as WHSmith, and all good magazine retailers.

HOUSEPLANTS

Begonias

The great pretender of houseplants can be a challenge, but joy comes to those who persevere

WORDS **JANE PERRONE** ILLUSTRATION **PATRICK MORGAN**

Begin with a begonia, as no houseplant guide ever said. Newcomers to indoor gardening who are tempted by an array of patterned leaves often find their joy quickly crushed as new specimens deteriorate to a crumpled heap in a matter of weeks. And it's not just the beginners who fall prey. I love begonias, I really do, but they've given me more anxious moments than any other set of plants. Yet I urge you to keep buying and trying begonias: they are a satisfying – and endlessly beautiful – challenge. You just need to find the plant that will thrive for you among this large and diverse genus of more than 1,800 tropical and subtropical species.

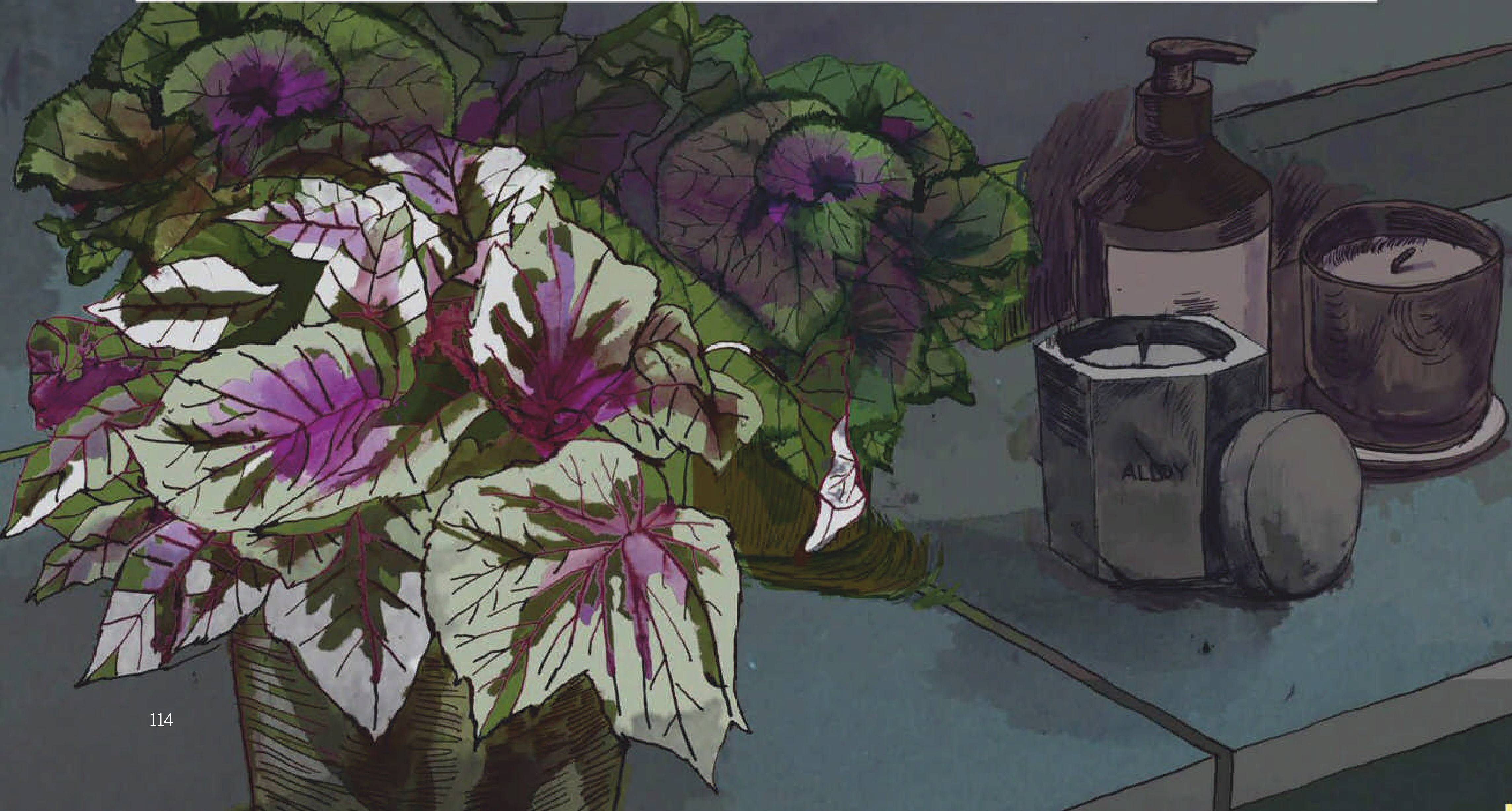
Begonias come in all shapes and sizes. As the American Begonia Society puts it: 'Begonias are known as the great foliage impostors.' For every popular foliage houseplant, there's a begonia doppelgänger: *B. pteridiformis* has delicate fern-like foliage; *B. angularis* has large white-veined leaves and is often mistaken for an *Alocasia*; the round, glossy leaves of *B. conchifolia* resemble a *Peperomia*; and *B. luxurians* is known as the palm leaf begonia. To help you navigate your way through the begonia world, they are helpfully divided into eight classifications: the ones most often grown as houseplants are the members of the rhizomatous, cane-like and Rex groups. The first begonia to bring me long-term success was *B.* 'Erythrophylla', a rhizomatous type with fleshy leaves that resemble a plate of raw steak, hence the common name of the beefsteak begonia. This hybrid has been popular for more than a century, loved for its meaty, dark-green leaves and the delicate, pale-pink flowers it throws out in late winter or spring. Growing from rhizomes means this plant can get by on an erratic watering and feeding regime. It tends to trail as a mature plant, and can grow enormously heavy and full when planted in a hanging basket in a spot out of direct light. If you're looking for something more dainty but equally stoic, eyelash begonia, *B. bowerae*, is a great choice with its chocolate and lime-patterned leaves with hairy margins.

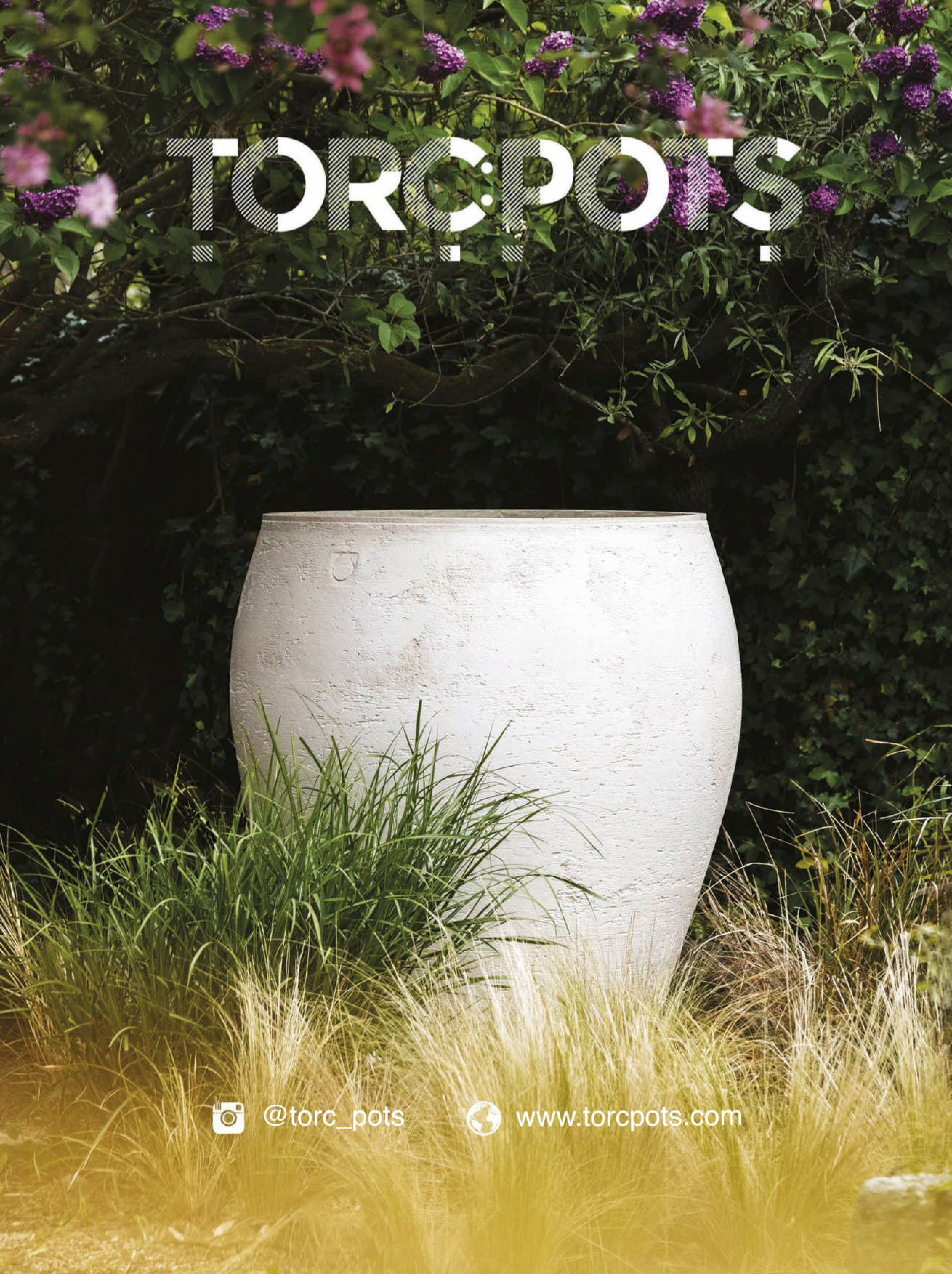
Once you've mastered the rhizomatous begonias, you can graduate to the cane-like group, which includes the angel-wing types such as *B. maculata*, with its olive-coloured, silver-splashed leaves with red undersides (ignore the pictures on Instagram of plants with really dark green leaves, filters will inevitably have exaggerated their true leaf colour). These plants will suffer leaf loss and powdery mildew if the soil around their roots is too wet, so make sure the potting mix is airy through the addition of perlite or leca (expanded clay pebbles); water thoroughly when the surface is dry and the pot feels light when you pick it up. Cane begonias also need more light than the rhizomatous types: an east- or west-facing window is ideal.

When you are feeling brave, you can take on the king of begonias: more properly known as Begonia Rex-cultorum Group, which have the most dramatic coloured leaves of all the genus, but the greatest reputation for keeling over without explanation. These plants need high air humidity of at least 55 per cent: so place them in a naturally humid room, such as a bathroom or kitchen, or stand the plant on a tray of wet pebbles to create a moist microclimate (avoid misting, as it will promote powdery mildew). Hard tap water will result in burned leaf edges, so use rainwater or distilled water if you can. The occasional good soaking is better than little and often, as the fine roots of Rexes are easily rotted. Like the cane types, they will do well in bright indirect light, but don't chuck them on the compost if they lose their leaves in winter: they will often re-sprout come spring. I hesitate to write this in case the houseplant gods smite me for my brashness, but I am currently keeping a *B.* 'Curly Fireflush' in excellent shape, sat atop a dish of wet pebbles. I only squint at it occasionally out of the corner of my eye lest it take offence and start failing. Such is the fate of the houseplant grower who chooses to risk it all on a Rex.

If your rhizomatous or *Begonia rex* starts looking peaky, take out an insurance policy by propagating new plants from a still-healthy leaf. Cut it into wedges with clean scissors or a razor blade, making sure each contains a section of the major veins. Place the lower third of the wedge into damp perlite, cover with a clear plastic bag and leave in a warm bright place. Mist the perlite occasionally to keep it damp, and within weeks you should see tiny plantlets appearing on the surface. Once these are a decent size, pot them up to supply a new generation of begonias. Cane-like begonias are even easier, as sections of stem will root easily in a glass of water. □

Jane Perrone is a garden writer




TORCPOTS
@torc_pots
www.torcpots.com

Victorian Lodge, Sweden

HARTLEY BOTANIC

HANDMADE WITH PRIDE SINCE 1938

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Discover the secret of Hartley Botanic by calling UK - 0800 783 8083 or visit www.hartley-botanic.co.uk
USA - 781 933 1993 or visit www.hartley-botanic.com

RHS
Inspiring everyone to grow

NOTHING ELSE IS A HARTLEY

The only aluminium Glasshouses and Greenhouses endorsed by the RHS

HANDMADE IN ENGLAND
TRUSTED FOR 80 YEARS

© The Royal Horticultural Society 2020. Endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society. Registered Charity No 222879/SC038262 rhs.org.uk